Overview

- What is the What Works Clearinghouse™?
- What are WWC Standards?
- How Does the WWC Review a Study?
- Considerations to Keep in Mind
- Connecting with the WWC and TA Resources

What is the What Works Clearinghouse™?

- Since 2002, the WWC has been an initiative of ED’s Institute of Education Sciences (IES).
- The WWC reviews, rates, and summarizes original studies of the effectiveness of education interventions (policies, programs, practices, or products).
- The WWC does not rate qualitative studies, descriptive studies, studies that re-analyze or synthesize others’ data, or the quality of interventions (as opposed to studies of interventions).

Reviews of studies are documented at whatworks.ed.gov; findings are reported from studies that meet WWC standards.
What Works Clearinghouse™ Standards

- Developed by panels of experts for different types of study designs:
  - Group designs (randomized controlled trials and quasi-experimental designs)
  - Regression discontinuity designs
  - Single case designs
- Focus on internal validity of estimates (whether an estimated impact is valid or likely to be biased)
- Applied by teams of certified reviewers using a review protocol to give studies one of 3 ratings:

WWC Review of a Group Design Study

Identifying the Treatment, Counterfactual, and Research Design

- What is the intervention of interest for your impact study?
- Is the intervention received by all or only some of the individuals served by the project?
- How will a comparison group not receiving the intervention be formed?
  - Lottery
  - Measure of need
  - Matched comparison group
Identifying Outcomes and Baseline Characteristics Needed for WWC Review

- Are the relevant outcomes you expect to measure eligible for review under a WWC protocol, such as the
  - Review of Individual Studies Protocol
  - English Language Learners Evidence Review Protocol
  - Teacher Training, Evaluation, and Compensation Evidence Review Protocol
- Do you expect to collect the pre-intervention data required by a WWC protocol to establish baseline equivalence?

For more Information:

Jonathan Jacobson
Jonathan.Jacobson@ed.gov

Connect with the WWC and TA Resources

- The WWC Home Page
- The WWC Help Desk
- Follow the WWC
  - http://facebook.com/whatworks_clearinghouse
  - https://twitter.com/WhatWorksED
- TA Resources for Evaluators Planning Rigorous Impact Studies