

Synthesizing and Building Evidence of "What Works" in Education

Jonathan Jacobson, Ph.D. Senior Research Scientist and Team Leader What Works Clearinghouse[™] National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance Institute of Education Sciences U.S. Department of Education

October 24, 2019

Overview

- What is the What Works ClearinghouseTM?
- Key audiences for the WWC
- Systematic reporting standards
- Eligibility of studies for WWC review
- Example of a WWC intervention report and the underlying WWC reviews of individual studies
- Related requirements of IES research replication grants
- Connecting with the WWC



What is the *What Works Clearinghouse*[™]?

- Begun in 2002 as an initiative of the newly-established Institute of Education Sciences (IES)
- Mission is to be a trusted source of scientific evidence for what works to improve student outcomes or other relevant education outcomes
- Reviews original research on education interventions
 - "Intervention" means a program, product, practice, or policy
 - WWC does <u>not</u> review descriptive studies, qualitative studies, secondary data analyses, or research syntheses
- The WWC currently includes IES staff plus 6 contractors and 7 contracts funded at about \$10 million/year total



Key Audiences for the *What* Works Clearinghouse[™]

- ED grantees and grant applicants interested in the <u>strength</u> of evidence from education research that could inform proposed education projects
- ED program offices interested in the quality of ED-funded impact studies and project evaluations
- Teachers, principals, and other school leaders seeking <u>guides to evidence-based practices</u> that describe how to implement those practices
- State and local administrators seeking to assess claims of effectiveness for education <u>interventions</u> or compare the effectiveness of interventions in different <u>topic areas</u>



Systematic Reporting Standards

- Only publicly available studies are eligible for WWC review
 - ED-funded studies available through the <u>Education Resources</u>
 <u>Information Center</u> (ERIC), a free, publicly available, searchable database of education research
 - Studies only available behind paywalls for journals or books
 - Unpublished, non-peer reviewed studies available to the public online
- The WWC queries study authors for information needed for the WWC review but not reported in studies
- In the case of multiple manuscripts, the WWC prioritizes the final, peer-reviewed manuscript submitted to ERIC, or else the final, published version

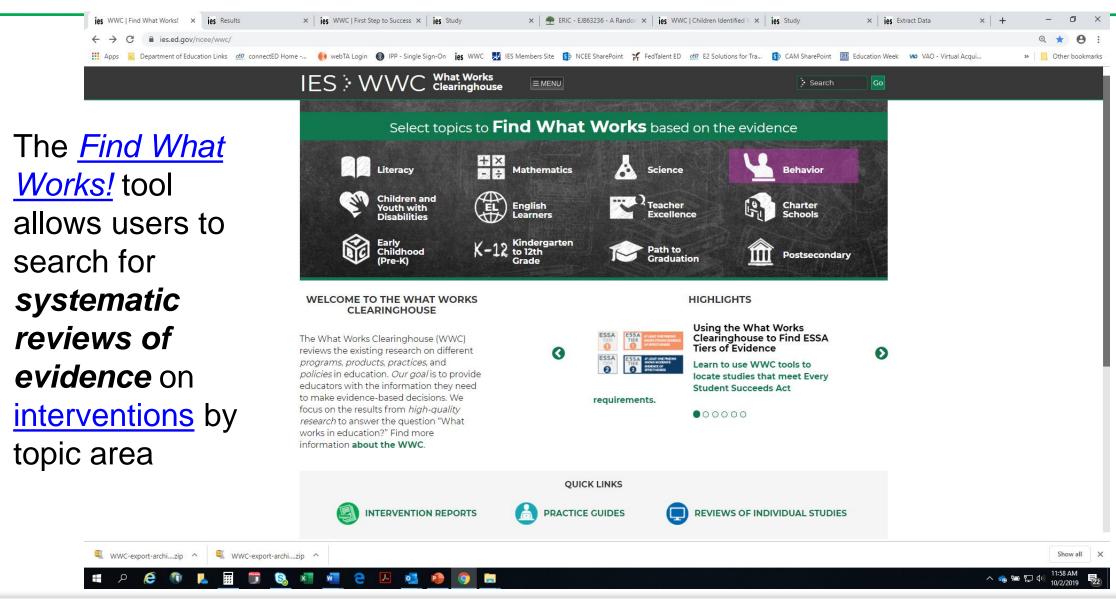


Eligibility of Studies for WWC Review

- Systematic reviews of interventions or practices include all studies that meet the requirements defined in the corresponding WWC <u>topic area review</u> <u>protocol</u> for eligible...
 - interventions
 - populations
 - settings
 - outcomes
 - time frames
 - study designs
- Interventions are prioritized for WWC intervention reports on the basis of the number of eligible studies of the intervention available for WWC review and that are likely to meet WWC <u>design standards</u> for RCTs, QEDs, RDDs, or SCDs

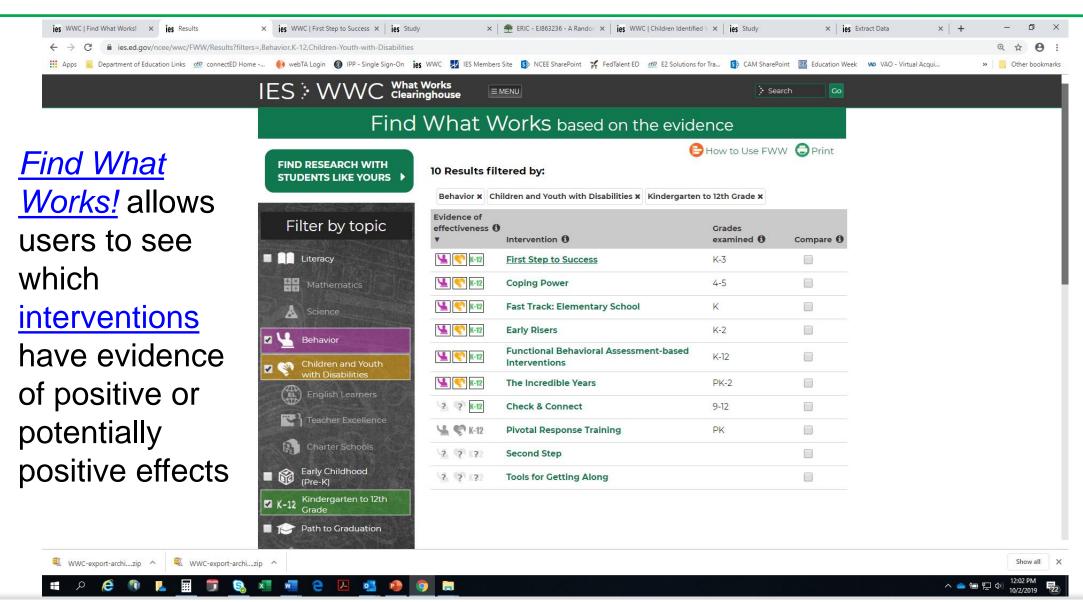


Find WWC Intervention Reports by Topic Area

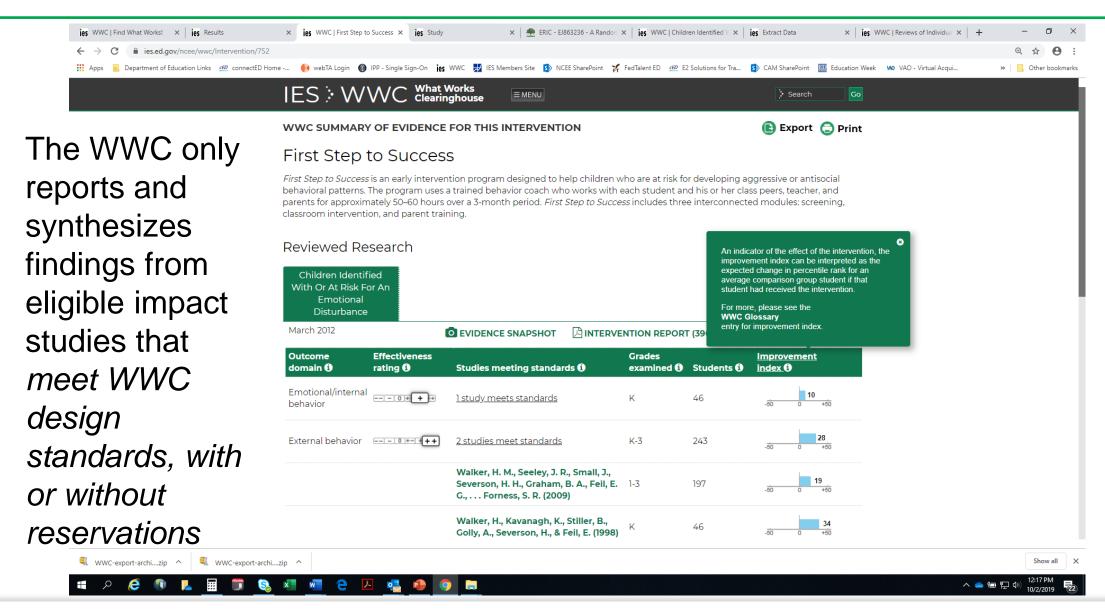


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See Which Interventions Have Evidence of Positive Effects

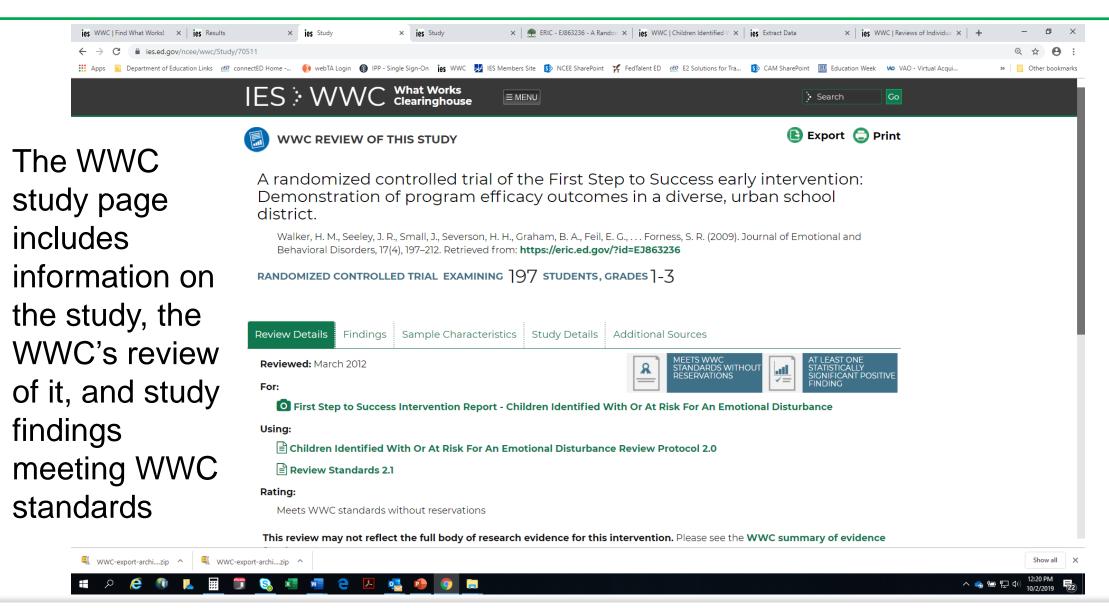


See the Individual Studies Behind an Intervention Report



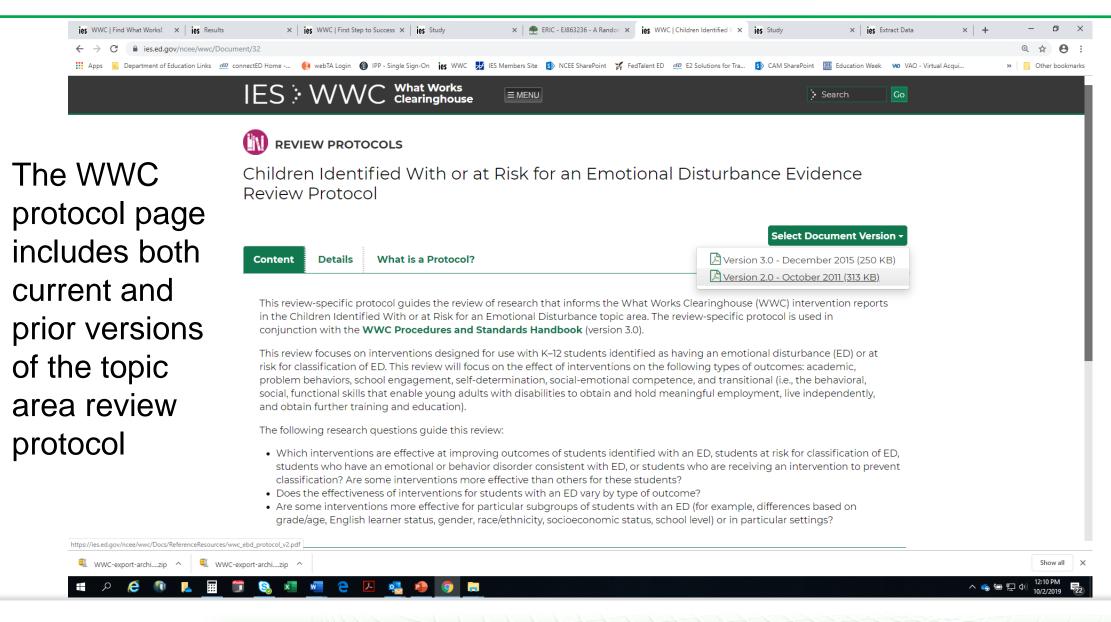
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Drilling Down to the Review of an Individual Study





See and Download the Protocol Used for the WWC Review

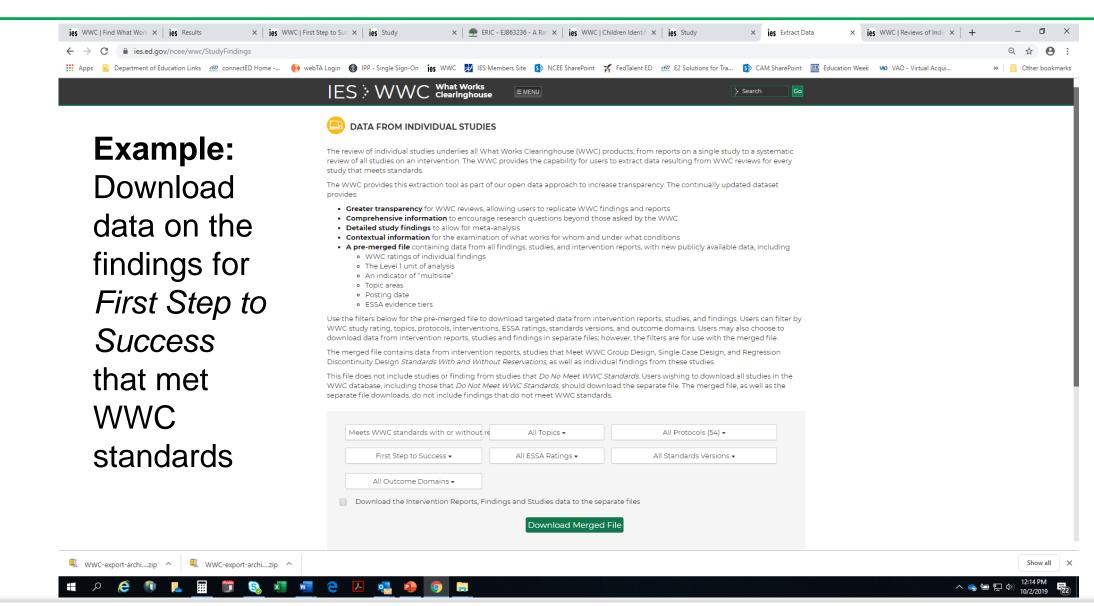


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See and Download the Handbook(s) Used for the WWC Review

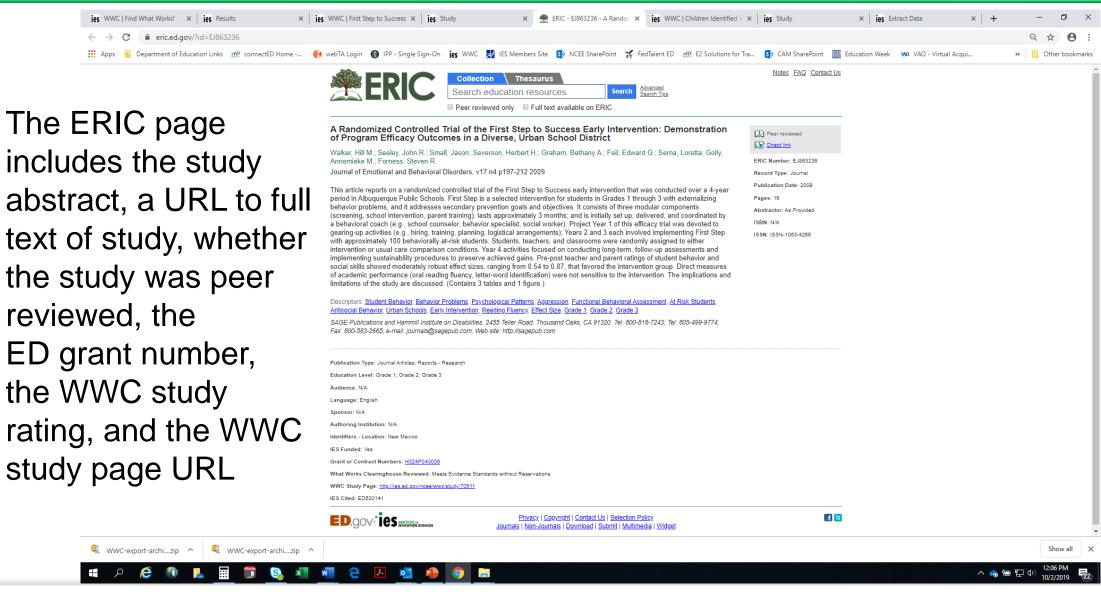
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Download Data on Study Findings Meeting WWC Standards



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See the Study Page at Education Resources Information Center



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Related Requirements of IES <u>Research Replication Grants</u>

- Preregistration: The study must be preregistered in a repository in a manner consistent with the IES Standards for Excellence in Education Research (<u>SEER</u>), for example in the Registry of Efficacy and Effectiveness Studies (<u>REES</u>) associated with the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (<u>SREE</u>)
- Conflicts of interest: key personnel designing or conducting independent evaluations of interventions must NOT have related financial interests
- Public access requirement: final manuscripts accepted in a <u>peer-reviewed</u> <u>scholarly publication</u> must be submitted to <u>ERIC</u> to be accessible to the public at no charge in a searchable database [book chapters, editorials, reviews, and nonpeer-reviewed conference proceedings do not count]
- Data availability: a Data Management Plan must specify how, and for how long, data collected for the study will be made available to other researchers



Connecting with the WWC

- Website: whatworks.ed.gov
 The WWC Help Desk
- Follow the WWC
 - f Facebook
 - **<u>Fwitter</u>**

B<u>NewsFlash</u>

Jon's email: jonathan.jacobson@ed.gov

