# ESSA Evidence Tier Criteria

At least **one** intervention for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) schools must meet Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 3.

| # | Tier Criterion | Tier 1 | Meets WWC standards without reservations | Tier 2 | Meets WWC standards with reservations | Tier 3 | Tier 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | *Design rigor (minimum)* | **Experimental** Random assignment of participants to control and treatment | | **Quasi-experimental** Control and treatment groups <u>not random</u> (but purposeful) | | **Correlational** Well-designed correlational research | **Logic model** Based on high-quality research or positive evaluation |
| 2 | *Group equivalence* | Low attrition (baseline equivalence is assumed) | | Higher attrition acceptable, but then must have baseline equivalence | | Statistical controls for participant selection bias | n/a |
| 3 | *Statistically significant favorable effect (by outcome)* | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | Includes evaluation plan |
| 4 | *No significant unfavorable effect from any Tier 1 or Tier 2 study (by outcome)* | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | n/a |
| 5 | *Large study sample* | ✓ | | ✓ | | n/a | n/a |
| 6 | *Multisite study sample* | ✓ | | ✓ | | n/a | n/a |
| 7 | *Sample overlap* | Students <u>and</u> setting | | Students <u>or</u> setting | | n/a | n/a |

# Terminology

- **Attrition** is the rate of study participant drop-out.

- **Baseline equivalence** means that the participants in the control and treatment groups, on average, share the same personal characteristics, such as race, gender, etc.

- A **control group** is the group of participants in a study who do <u>not</u> receive the practice that is being studied, while the **treatment group** participants do receive the practice being studied.

- **Correlational studies** use analytic methods study the relationship between two factors, such as an educational practice and a student outcome.

- **Evaluation plans** are programs at the state or local level to assess the impact of educational practices on student outcomes.

- A **logic model** is a well-specified conceptual framework that identifies key components of the proposed process, product, strategy, or practice and describes the relationships among the key components and outcomes, theoretically and operationally.

- A **large multi-site study** is one with at least 350 study participants that takes places over at least 2 different schools or districts.

- **Statistical significance** means there is at least a 95% chance that the relationship between two factors, such as an educational practice and a student outcome, are not random.

- **Student characteristics** may include race, gender, status as an English learner, economically disadvantaged student, student with disability, etc.

- **Setting** describes whether schools are in rural, suburban or urban districts.