








PENNSYLVANIA'S ESSA TIERS OF EVIDENCE

	<div>Tier 1</div> <div>Strong</div>	<div>Tier 2</div> <div>Moderate</div>	<div>Tier 3</div> <div>Promising</div>	<div>Tier 4</div> <div>Demonstrates a Rationale</div>
Study Design	1+ well-executed, well-designed experimental study Meets WWC Design Standards without reservations	1+ well-executed, well-designed quasi-experimental study Meets WWC Design Standards with reservations	1+ well-executed, well-designed correlational study Controls for selection bias	A test using validated instruments has occurred* Well-defined logic model A plan for further study underway
Group Formation	Randomized controlled trial (RCT)	Nonrandom methods, with baseline equivalence	Nonrandom methods, controlling for selection bias	No minimum requirement
Statistical Significance <small>$p < 0.05$</small>	✓	✓	✓	 Small but favorable effect* <small>*May vary state to state.</small>
Countervailing Evidence <small>from other high-quality causal studies</small>	✗ Must be no countervailing evidence from other high-quality, causal studies	✗ Must be no countervailing evidence from other high-quality, causal studies	✗ Must be no countervailing evidence from other high-quality, causal studies	✗ Must be no countervailing evidence from other high-quality, causal studies
Sample	350+ study participants	350+ study participants	No minimum participants	No minimum participants
Setting	 More than one school or district*	 More than one school or district*	No requirement	No requirement
Context	 <i>and</i>  Similar to your population <i>and</i> setting	 <i>or</i>  Similar to your population <i>or</i> setting	No requirement or does not match your setting or place	No requirement

*Some states have defined ESSA Tiers 3 and 4 in ways that may vary from this table. Be sure to consult your state's ESSA materials for alignment.