Evidence Based Studies and Tiers of Evidence
Goals

➢ Review requirements for use of evidence-based strategies with Title II funds under ESSA

➢ Review evidence tiers and associated criteria

➢ Practice identifying the evidence tier of a study
Evidence Requirements in Title II

- ESSA stipulates that activities funded via Title II dollars must be evidence-based.

- ESSA defines evidence-based as a research study that meets the criteria for one of four possible tiers. Any of the four tiers may be used to justify activities in Title II.
  - Note: This is not the case for all Titles.

- RIDE requires all LEAs to make evidence available upon request.

- A review of evidence is now a standard component of the RIDE Title II monitoring process.
Tiers of Evidence

Tier 1 – Strong Evidence (Experimental Study)

Tier 2 - Moderate Evidence (Quasi-Experimental Study)

Tier 3 - Promising Evidence (Correlational Study)

Tier 4 - Demonstrates a Rationale (Logic Model + Research + Effort to Study)
## Tier 1 – Strong Evidence (Experimental Study)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Randomized control experiment</td>
<td>• Treatment group (got intervention) and control group (no intervention), assigned randomly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Large and multi-site sample                   | • At least 350 students or other units  
• More than one site (school, district, or state) |
| Statistically significant, positive outcome   | • Outcome was favorable and not the result of chance                          |
| Relevant to your context                      | • Similar student population and similar setting                             |
## Tier 2 – Moderate Evidence (Quasi-Experimental Study)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quasi-Experimental Design Study</strong></td>
<td>• Treatment group (got intervention) and similar control group (no intervention), <strong>NOT assigned randomly</strong>, groups often matched</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Large and multi-site sample</strong></td>
<td>• At least 350 students or other units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>Relevant to your context</strong></td>
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Tier 3 – Promising Evidence (Correlational Study)

- Correlational Study
  - Relationship between treatment and outcome
  - Statistical control for selection bias

- Statistically significant, positive outcome
  - Outcome was favorable and not the result of chance

Note: Correlational studies cannot establish causation.
Tier 4 – Demonstrates a Rationale (Logic Model + Research + Effort to Study)

- **Logic Model**
  - Identifies key components of proposed intervention
  - Describes relationship between components and relevant outcomes

- **Research Based**
  - Relevant research or intervention suggests improving relevant outcomes is likely.

- **Effort to Study**
  - Includes an effort to study the intervention (or points to one happening elsewhere).
  - Consider including fidelity of implementation.