

Symposium Title	<i>Recent Improvements to the What Works Clearinghouse</i>
Symposium Contact	Joshua R. Polanin (jpolanin@air.org)
Preferred Conference Sections	Research Methods, Effects of Education Policies
Symposium Justification and Abstracts	See below
Names of Papers	<p><i>Making What Works Clearinghouse Systematic Reviews in Early Childhood to Grade 12 Relevant and Useful</i></p> <p>Authors: Elias Walsh (presenting author and contact, Mathematica, EWalsh@mathematica-mpr.com) Dana Rotz (Mathematica, DRotz@mathematica-mpr.com) Jill Constantine (Mathematica, JConstantine@mathematica-mpr.com)</p> <p><i>Finding Everything that Works: Accessing and Using What Works Clearinghouse Source Data</i></p> <p>Authors: Michael Frye (presenting author and contact, Abt Associates, michael_frye@abtassoc.com) Allan Porowski (Abt Associates, allan_porowski@abtassoc.com) Yuhe Gu (Abt Associates, yuhe_gu@abtassoc.com)</p> <p><i>Version 4.1 of the WWC Standards and Procedures Handbooks</i></p> <p>Authors: Jeffrey C. Valentine (presenting author and contact, University of Louisville, jeff.valentine@louisville.edu) Ryan Williams (American Institutes for Research, rwilliams@air.org) Joe Taylor (American Institutes for Research, jotaylor@air.org) Sarah Caverly (American Institutes for Research, scaverly@air.org) Daniel Hubbard (American Institutes for Research, dhubbard@air.org) Elizabeth Nolan (American Institutes for Research, enolan@air.org)</p>

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Independent Discussant	Jonathan Jacobson (U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, Jonathan.Jacobson@ed.gov)

Symposium Justification

The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) was established in 2002 to serve as a central and trusted resource for evidence on the effectiveness of educational interventions. Since then, the WWC’s systematic evidence review methods and presentation formats have been adopted, at least in part, by numerous federal and state agencies, as well as by evidence collaboratives in the private sector. In the past two years, the WWC underwent a reorganization of its PK-12 topic area reviews, and work continued in the postsecondary topic areas under a separate contract. In this symposium, presenters from three WWC contracts will share updates for organizing, summarizing results, and presenting findings from systematic evidence reviews for the next generation of the WWC.

The first presentation will be delivered by the contractor for the WWC-Organization of Reporting of Evidence on Graduation, Achievement, and Nonacademic Outcomes (WWC-OREGANO) project, which conducts reviews of evidence in early childhood to grade 12 education. This presentation will provide an overview of how review teams makes decisions and document them in review protocols. An intervention report and the review protocol for the new Educator Excellence and School Leadership topic area will be used as illustrative examples throughout the presentation.

The second presentation will be delivered by the contractor for the WWC-Postsecondary Education, Postsecondary Preparation, and Evidence Reporting (PEPPER) project. It will discuss how the WWC’s *Data from Individual Studies* can be used to identify high quality evidence on the impact that numerous interventions have on education outcomes. With some simple data management procedures and descriptive analyses, users can identify high quality evidence aligned to their education topics of interest that goes well beyond what can be found in the What Works Clearinghouse’s [tool](#) for searching for systematic reviews of evidence on interventions.

The third presentation will represent the contractor for the WWC-Statistics, Website, and Training (SWAT) project, which guides the development of the WWC’s evidence standards and procedures, among other duties. This presentation will summarize updates to the WWC *Handbooks* as part of a move from v4.0 to v4.1. The presentation will highlight changes made to single-case design study standards, characterization of findings, and the transition to fixed-effects meta-analysis for synthesizing results.

Dr. Jonathan Jacobson of the Institute of Education Sciences, the team leader for the What Works Clearinghouse, will serve as the discussant for the symposium. He will a discussion with the presenters that connects their presentations to upcoming developments in the WWC.