

An Equity-Focused Approach to TSI/ATSI School Improvement

Lunch and Learn Highlights – March 24, 2021

Each month, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and the Region 11 Comprehensive Center (R11CC) are hosting interactive, content-focused sessions as a part of the year-long “An Equity-Focused Approach to TSI/ATSI School Improvement” Virtual Learning Communities (LC). Following each session, a Lunch and Learn is hosted where colleagues participating in the LC network continue the conversations from the previous content session.

During the March 24 Lunch and Learn, we extended our conversations from the March 4 LC, digging deeper into the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) resources and exploring what it means to be an informed data consumer. NeMTSS, REL Central, and R11CC staff presented on four areas:

Area 1. Examining Nebraska-specific resources: Kristy Feden and Lindsee Fryatt, NeMTSS

The NDE, in partnership with REL Central, produced condensed versions of the WWC Practice Guides for [literacy](#) and [math](#). The [NDE Quick Start Guide](#) provides general guidance on the use of Nebraska’s Practice Guides.

NeMTSS created a [Program Comparison Tool](#) to help schools and districts select interventions aligned to their students’ needs. The tool allows users to filter and compare interventions on features such as demographics and delivery, program specifics, and details on research and evaluation, including ESSA Tiers when available.

Area 2. Unpacking the IES Practice Guides: Douglas Van Dine, REL Central

The WWC has [Practice Guides](#) that are based on reviews of research, the experiences of practitioners, and the advice of expert panels. Frequently overlooked are the appendices which include the methods and processes for developing a particular Practice Guide and rationale for the evidence base.

Area 3. Exploring WWC and social construct data: Tameka Porter, R11CC

The WWC has hundreds of educational programs, products, and policies aimed at improving student outcomes. Each intervention has an [evidence snapshot](#) that contains the social construct data of the reported sample of students in the studies. Referenced was one short video (approximately 5 minutes) on how to assess the relevance of evidence-based materials for the social identity context of individual schools and classrooms:

- [Finding Studies with Settings Like Yours Using ESSA Evidence Definitions](#)

Area 4. Connecting WWC to the ESSA Tiers of Evidence: Kim Good, R11CC

The WWC has several infographics to help with understanding the site and using the resources. Three infographics were featured:

- [Using the WWC to Find ESSA Tiers of Evidence](#)
- [How to Use the WWC Individual Study Reviews](#)
- [How the WWC Rates a Study](#)

Videos produced by the WWC are also a valuable source to better understand how to use and apply the wealth of information available. Three short videos were referenced (approximately 5 minutes):

- [Using the WWC to Identify ESSA Evidence Ratings](#)
- [How States Can Use the WWC to Inform Evidence Use under ESSA](#)
- [Using the WWC: How One School District Uses Education Research for Improvement](#)