

Synthesizing Evidence-Based Strategies for Accelerating Learning:

IES RESTART Network

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➤ Agenda

1. Overview of the RESTART Network
2. Discussion & Share Out #1: What are you seeing?
3. Overview of Scan and Synthesis
4. Discussion & Share Out #2: What are your priorities?
5. Preliminary Findings – What's Being Implemented?
6. What does “Evidence-based” mean?
7. Discussion

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RESTART Network Overview

➤ The Case for the RESTART Network

- Unprecedented disruption from the COVID-19 pandemic changed the landscape of education.
 - Upended many traditional approaches, requiring shifts in instructional practice and focus
 - Interrupted historically used methods to assess and monitor learning (attendance, test scores, grades)
- Emerging research suggests that different groups of students had disparate experiences during the pandemic. We need to understand these differences to support learning.

➤ The Case for the RESTART Network

- Innovations resulted from this disruption.
 - Led to new learnings about engagement, connectedness, and importance of mental health for students, families, educators, and leaders
 - Can apply lessons learned to provide support after potential disruptions from other pandemics or massive crises in the future
- The needs of students, school staff, and communities continue to evolve. It is necessary to keep focusing on and learning about recovery strategies.

➤ About the RESTART Network



1. The RESTART Network **coordinates research** activities across five Institute of Education Sciences (IES)–funded research teams to support learning recovery for students as the COVID-19 pandemic subsides.
2. The RESTART Network provides **national leadership on learning acceleration and recovery** from pandemic-induced learning loss, **sharing findings** from the Network with education agencies across the United States to support the use of evidence-based strategies for recovery.

➤ Key Activities Led by the RESTART Network



Facilitate **convenings** of participating research teams in the PreK–12 RESTART Network and **support training** of early career researchers across the Network.



Conduct a **scan and synthesis** of recovery strategies.



Convene a national forum of diverse stakeholders that will provide input and feedback to the Network.



Enact a **multifaceted dissemination strategy** to share the Network's findings with researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and the public.

➤ Discussion & Share Out #1



What innovations have you seen as a result of the pandemic?

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Scan and Synthesis of Recovery Activities

➤ Goals



Catalogue state and district pandemic recovery efforts



Understand the extent to which recovery efforts are being studied



Uncover gaps in recovery efforts as well as evaluation of those efforts



Deep dives: narrative syntheses of at least two subject areas



Develop registry for evaluation of pandemic recovery efforts

➤ Guiding Questions

- What are the biggest **areas of need** cited by states in terms of pandemic recovery efforts?
- What **strategies, programs, and practices (activities)** are states implementing to address these needs?
- To what extent are the implementation and impacts of these activities being **studied**?
- How do the answers to these questions **vary** over time and by topic area, student group, and region?





➤ Narrowing Focus: Topics

- Accelerated learning through:
 - Literacy
 - Mathematics
 - Social and Emotional Learning
 - Tutoring
 - Out of School Time (summer school, extended school year, after-school programs)
- Teacher training/educator supports

➤ Discussion & Share Out #2



What are the top learning recovery priorities among members of your communities?

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What are some Evidence-based Practices being implemented in schools to recover from the effects of the pandemic?



➤ Recovery investments

- Summer learning opportunities
- Tutoring
- High quality instructional materials
- Teacher pipeline
- Mental/behavioral health services
- Social and Emotional Learning programs
- Accelerated learning through “packaging” of programs
- Core academics

Source: CCSSO

➤ What we're finding

- Few resources provide detail beyond the area of focus – what programs are being implemented?
 - Scanning the literature, creating an evaluation registry
 - Possible plan to sift through state grant management systems for more information
- About 30% of states set aside funding to evaluate the impact of their investments
- Many state plans suggest the implementation of “evidence-based” practices. But are they?



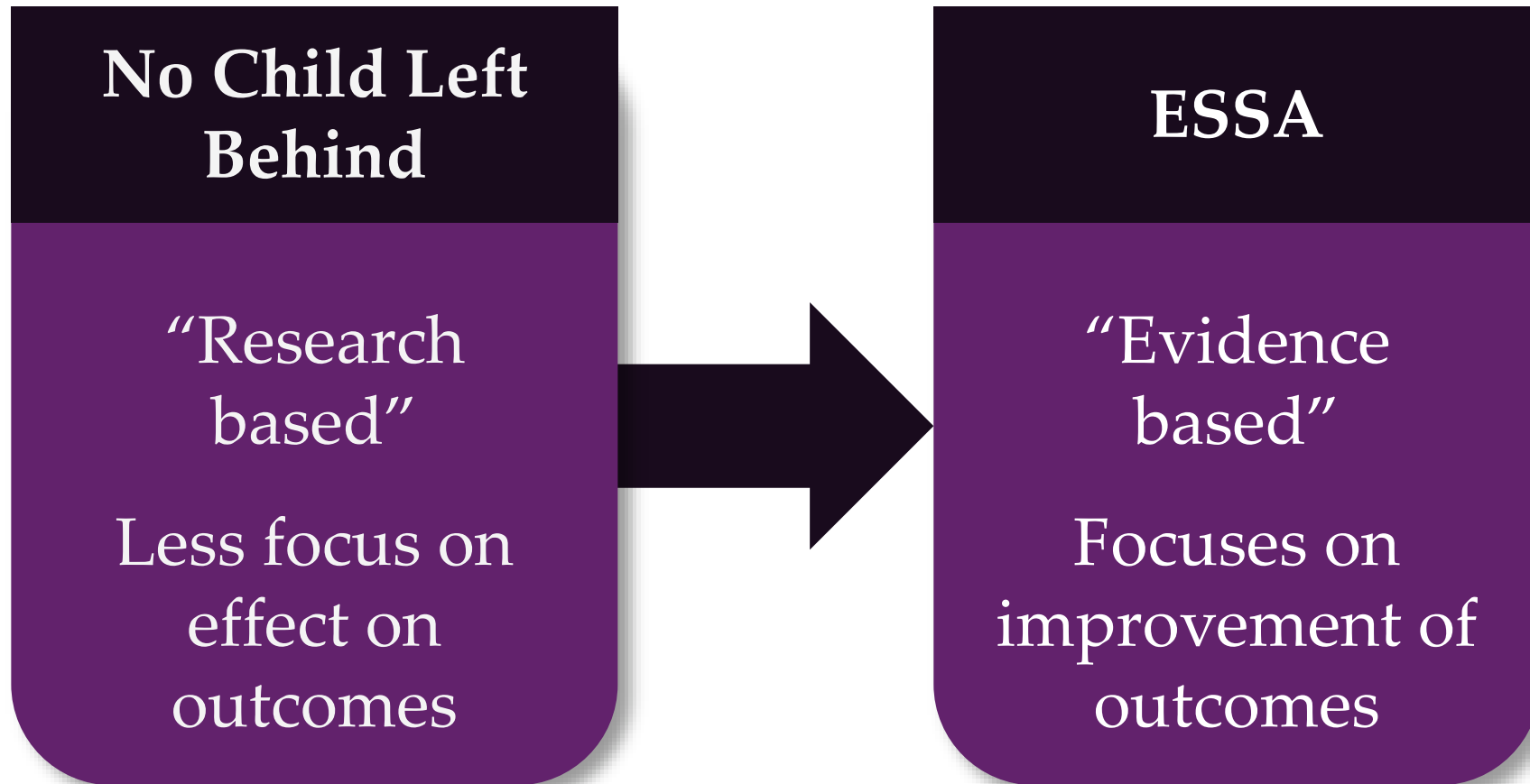
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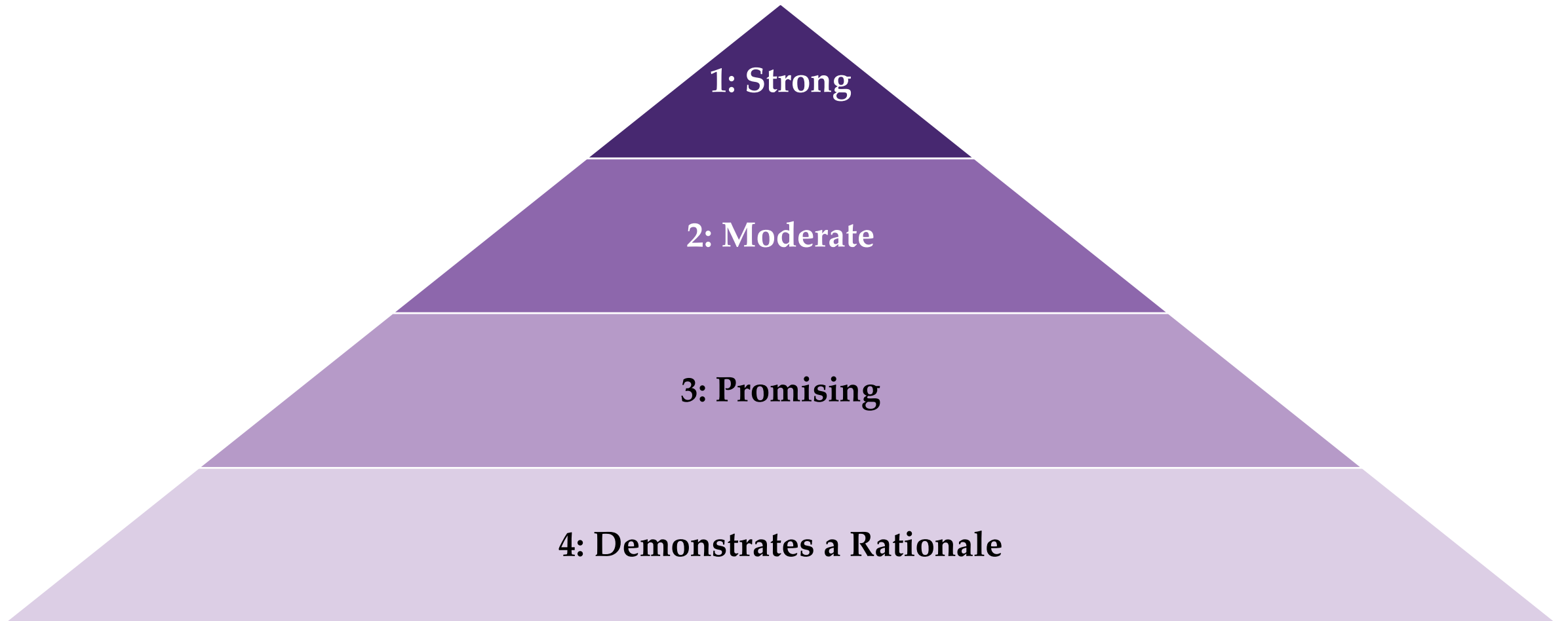


Defining Evidence-based Practices

➤ Shifting focus – from research to evidence



➤ Evidence Under ESSA – Four Tiers



➤ Each ESSA Tier Has Specific Criteria



Rigor of methods used

Strength and direction of findings

Findings from similar studies

Generalizability of results

➤ ESSA Tiers of Evidence Criteria Overview

Criteria	Strong Evidence (Tier 1)	Moderate Evidence (Tier 2)	Promising Evidence (Tier 3)	Demonstrates a Rationale (Tier 4)
Study design	Well-designed experiment	Well-designed quasi-experiment	Well-designed correlational	Well-defined logic model
Significant favorable outcome	★	★	★	Evaluation is planned or underway
No overriding negative outcomes*	★	★	★	
Large, multisite sample	★	★		
Context overlap	Population and setting	Population or setting		

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No overriding negative outcomes*	★	★	★	
Large, multisite sample	★	★		
Context overlap	Population <u>and</u> setting	Population <u>or</u> setting		

➤ Example: Fraction Face-Off

Fraction Face-Off!



OUTCOME	ESSA TIER	EFFECT SIZE
General Mathematics Achievement	1	Mild
Geometry and Measurement	3	Moderate
Number and Operations	1	Moderate

Source: AIR's Evidence Support Library <https://evidencesupportlibrary.org>

➤ Wrapping Up

- Wide range of recovery activities with many entities tracking spending, far fewer tracking implementation/impact
- Evidence-based practices are encouraged, but it's critical to understand the definition and process to labeling a program, practice, policy, or product “evidence-based”
- One goal of the RESTART network: to understand what is being implemented and what's being studied, but we have a long road ahead
- We'll be continuously adding resources to our website over the next three years

➤ Connect with Us!

<https://restartnetwork.org>

- Learn more about our five core research teams
- Browse the resource library
- Share out evaluation activities in your state/district
- Join our mailing list





➤ Discuss at your table

- **Ask:** What questions did this raise for you?
- **Affirm:** What did you hear that supports your current beliefs, experience or understanding?
- **Argue:** What did you hear that challenges your current beliefs, experience or understanding?
- **Aspire:** What piqued your interest that you hope to explore further?

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