Under the 2015 reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA), educators are charged with ensuring that the programs, practices, strategies, and interventions implemented in their settings are “evidence-based,” meaning they have been shown to be effective at improving outcomes through rigorous research.

American Institutes for Research (AIR) can help states build their capacity to understand the ESSA tiers of evidence; align those tiers with existing, vetted evidence-based clearinghouses, such as the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC); and provide tools and resources to help build capacity in searching for evidence, identifying studies, and determining ESSA evidence tiers.

AIR can provide support with the following, from start to finish:

- **Needs Sensing**
  - Discussing state needs around evidence use and how AIR’s services can meet those needs.

- **ESSA Trainings**
  - Understanding the ESSA evidence tiers, why they matter, and how they align with existing resources.

- **ESSA Reviews**
  - Performing literature scans for relevant studies.
  - Conducting reviews of individual studies against the WWC standards and ESSA evidence criteria, including designation of ESSA tiers for specific outcomes.

- **ESSA Reporting**
  - Reporting of relevant information from groups of studies, including sample and setting characteristics as well as average effect sizes.

- **ESSA Review Protocol Development**
  - Serving as a thought partner to help practitioners develop state-specific review protocols.

- **ESSA Reviewer Training**
  - Providing a deeper look at the ESSA review process for determining evidence levels.

Want to learn more about AIR’s capacity to support ESSA implementation? Visit our Official ESSA Resources page (https://www.air.org/page/official-essa-resources) or contact Lyzz Davis (edavis@air.org).