

August 2015
Response to Public Comments (from 30-day notice)
1850-0788 What Works Clearinghouse Formative Feedback

Public Comment: The exclusion of qualitative and mixed methods studies from the rating "Meets Standards with Reservations" significantly dilutes the pool of valuable research related to many educational programs. Qualitative and mixed methods studies often meet rigorous standards and contribute to understanding of complex issues by providing a perspective that quantitative data alone cannot provide. I would recommend that WWC expand its vision to include evaluation of qualitative and mixed methods studies.

IES Response: The WWC reviews and assesses the findings of effectiveness studies. Currently, the research designs that are eligible for review include randomized control trials (RCTs), quasi-experimental designs (QEDs) with matched comparison groups, regression discontinuity designs (RDD) and single case designs (SCDs).