



Steps to Being Empowered by Evidence

You don't need a Ph.D. in statistics to gain the power offered by evidence – and to make powerful changes for the benefit of your students. The Ohio Department of Education's 5 "Empowered by Evidence" steps are a starting point:



1. Understand the value of using evidence-based strategies

As educators and policymakers, you can offer students the academic support and services they need to reach their full potential in school and life. But to turn opportunity into action, you need to know what strategies and supports really work. Evidence-based strategies can help you get there.



2. Consider your local needs

Different students in different districts have different needs. To be empowered by evidence, you must consider the distinct needs of students in your school or district and then choose the available strategies most likely to meet those needs.



3. Learn the basics.

You want to be confident that a strategy will help your students succeed. Strategies offer various **levels of evidence**. Once you understand the levels, you can make the best choice for your students.¹

Level 1 and Level 2 strategies are backed by "strong" and "moderate" research, respectively. Research shows that Level 1 and 2 strategies are most likely to bring about positive change for students.

Level 3 strategies are backed by "promising" research. While the research may not have the statistical rigor of Levels 1 or 2, there is good cause to believe they can work.

Level 4 strategies do not yet have enough research backing to be Level 1, 2 or 3. But, they do have some support in research. When you use Level 4 strategies, you are making a commitment to carefully monitor and evaluate results to ensure students are benefiting.



4. Make strategies prove their worth

Once you implement a strategy, no matter what level, you want to know it's working. Are you seeing change? What are student results telling you? If you're not seeing the expected improvement, make adjustments.



5. Tap into Ohio's Empowered by Evidence resources

You're not on this evidence-based adventure alone. The Ohio Department of Education's website offers detailed FAQs, step-by-step instructions on how to find evidence-based strategies, and links to other state and national resources. The Department will continue to add to these resources, so visit often.

¹ - See US Department of Education's Non-Regulatory Guidance: Using Evidence to Strengthen Education Investments for more information (<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/guidanceuseseseinvestment.pdf>).