



## User's Guide: Database of Evaluation Resources for Supporting Effective Educator Development

<https://innovation.ed.gov/what-we-do/teacher-quality/supporting-effective-educator-development-grant-program/evaluation-resources/>

### Why this database?

This database is specifically designed to support people who want to learn more about how to understand, design, or implement research studies and evaluations—especially those that build evidence on programs designed to improve educator effectiveness. Researchers have reviewed hundreds of documents to find the most useful resources to support learning about all aspects of well-designed and well-implemented research studies and evaluations.

### What if I want to learn more about a document before reading through it?

We've provided a "Resource Details" sheet for every resource in the database. Simply **click on the title of the resource**, and a pop-up window will provide a summary of the resource.

### Evaluation Resources: Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED)

Below, we offer a set of resource documents to help you understand, design, and implement evaluation methods for educator development programs in a way that is consistent with the Department of Education *What Works Clearinghouse (WWC)* standards.

How to use this page: To find resources that have the most relevance to your interests, use the filters on the right side of the page. You can find the *definition for each field as you hover over the field name*. To learn more about each resource, click on the resource title.

Low-Cost Approaches *AND* Randomized Controlled Trials (RCT)

Showing 1 to 10 of 10 entries (filtered from 61 total entries)

Search:

Title	Author(s)	Hosting/Publishing Organization	Year of Publication	Weblink
Gold-Standard Program Evaluations, on a Shoestring Budget	Baron, J.	Education Week	2011	<a href="#">Link to Resource</a>
Toward School Districts Conducting Their Own Rigorous Program Evaluations: Final Report on the "Low Cost Experiments to Support Local School District Decisions" Project	Newman, D.	Empirical Education Inc.	2008	<a href="#">Link to Resource</a>
When Is It Possible to Conduct a Randomized Controlled Trial in Education at Reduced Cost, Using Existing Data Sources? A Brief Overview	Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy	Council for Excellence in Government	2007	<a href="#">Link to Resource</a>
Rigorous Program Evaluations on a Budget: How Low-Cost Randomized Controlled Trials Are Possible in Many Areas of Social Policy	Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy	Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy	2012	<a href="#">Link to Resource</a>

#### Resource Details

##### Basic Information

Title: Gold-Standard Program Evaluations, on a Shoestring Budget

Author(s): Baron, J.

Hosting/publishing organization: Education Week

Year of publication: 2011

##### Short Description:

An Education Week article advocating for the use of low-cost randomized controlled trials (RCT) in education research. The article describes two examples of recent RCTs that were conducted at low cost, yet produced findings of policy and practical importance. The author suggests that with improvements in information technology and the availability of high-quality administrative data, it is now more feasible to conduct gold-standard randomized evaluations on a shoestring budget.

##### Resource Characteristics

Audience: Non-Technical Audience

Type of Resource: Brief

Length: 2 pages

##### Evaluation Lifecycle

Plan and Design: Randomized Controlled Trials (RCT)

##### Additional Focus

Special Evaluation Topics: Low-Cost Approaches



### How can I quickly find what I am looking for?

You can search the database in a number of ways. You can either enter keywords in our **search field** or click through our **filters**. Here are the filters we have designed for you.

- **Resource Characteristics:** These fields allow you to make choices related to the technical level of the resource, the type of resource (whether it's a guide, tool, webinar, report, etc.), and the length of the resource (so you can start with resources that are less than 6 pages, if you like).
- **Evaluation Life Cycle:** Using the stages of the evaluation life cycle as a guide, you can pick categories within each stage to drill down to the evaluation topic in which you are most interested. Each stage has a drop down menu that leads you to more specific topics within that area of interest. For example if you want to learn more about quasi-experimental design (QED), you would select "plan and design" for the drop down menu, and then check QED.
- **Additional Focus:** You can also narrow your search by special topics of interest (for example, resources that focus on low-cost approaches or short cycles or provide examples of outcome measures).



### Where can I find definitions for fields and other terms you use on the website?

For definitions of each database field, check out [Evaluation Resources Definitions](#).

For definitions of terms often used in evaluations, view [Technical Terms](#).  
(hyperlink to be added when available).

### What if I click more than one option in the field lists?

The fields use AND logic. As you select more options, you will be directed to a more targeted set of resources. For example, if you want only resources that are written for a non-technical audience that discuss quasi-experimental group design, you should check both fields. On the upper left side, you will see a list of the choices you have selected. You can always hit "Clear All" to get back to the beginning.

Non-Technical Audience AND Quasi-Experimental Design (QED)

Showing 1 to 7 of 7 entries (filtered from 61 total entries)

Clear All

Resource Characteristics

Audience

☒ Non-Technical Audience  
☐ Researcher  
☐ Clear

Type of Resource

Length

Evaluation Lifecycle

Plan and Design

☐ Randomized Controlled Trials (RCT)  
☒ Quasi-Experimental Design (QED)  
☐ Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD)

Identify and Follow Participants

Collect and Store Data

Analyze Data

Report and Use Findings

Additional Focus

Special Evaluation Topics

☐ Low-Cost Approaches  
☐ Short-Cycle Methods  
☐ Educator Effectiveness Focus  
☐ References WWC Standards

Examples of Outcome Measures