

Selecting Evidence-Based Tools for Implementing Intensive Interventions

Webinar Q&A

Question: Why are some programs on the Academic Intervention Tools Chart listed multiple times?

Answer: Each listing on the Academic Intervention Tools Chart represents a research study that was conducted on the intervention program. For example, the reading intervention program Read 180 is listed five times. This means that five research studies on that program were submitted to NCII's Technical Review Committee and then each study was rated separately. When looking at the information on the Academic Interventions Tools Chart it is important to consider both the quality of the research as well as the effects shown for the intervention. It is also important to account for whether conflicting evidence has been reported across different reviewed studies. Keep in mind that the more studies that have been done on a program yielding strong research and positive ratings, the more confidence you can have in the evidence for that particular program.

Question: How is the NCII Academic Intervention Tools Chart different from the Intervention Reports from the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC)?

Answer: Both the WWC and NCII Academic Intervention Tools Charts provide valuable information for users. Our goal at NCII is to include information that will be user-friendly and help teachers in their selection and implementation of intervention programs.

One of the main differences between the NCII Academic Intervention Tools Chart and the WWC Intervention Reports lies in what is being rated. The WWC provides an overall rating of the intervention program based on a synthesis of multiple studies. The NCII Academic Intervention Tools Chart provides ratings of studies of particular intervention programs. The NCII Academic Intervention Tools Chart also only reviews studies of programs that are submitted by the developer while the WWC conducts literature reviews and includes studies that meet a certain criteria for inclusion.

Another key difference is that the NCII Tools Chart includes a fidelity rating of how well the intervention was implemented during the study, while the WWC does not include criteria for fidelity of implementation.

Question: In the Academic Interventions Tools Charts program reviews, specific durations are recommended for how long an intervention program should be implemented. Should interventionists always follow these durations, or should they use their professional judgment if an intervention is showing little progress?

Answer: We recommend that interventionists use the recommended duration for an intervention program as a starting point, but use their professional judgment to determine when they may need to increase the intensity of the intervention by altering the duration or frequency of the intervention or selecting a different intervention for the student if they are making insufficient progress. It is important that progress monitoring data be used to back up decisions related to a student's intervention services.

Question: Will NCII publish a Behavioral Intervention Tools Chart?

Answer: NCII recently put out a call for submissions from vendors of behavioral interventions, but did not receive enough submissions to publish a chart. NCII will publish a Behavioral Interventions Tools Chart once a more comprehensive list of programs have been submitted and reviewed. If you know of any publishers of behavioral interventions who may be interested in being included on this chart, please encourage them to submit to NCII's Technical Review Committee in the fall of 2013.