

ESSA Evidence Summary: Benchmark Workshop and Benchmark Taller

Current ESSA Evidence Level: Level 4: Demonstrates a Rationale

Available Documents: Logic Model and Research Foundation

Current Efforts to Study the Effects of the Intervention:

Benchmark Education Company is in the process of identifying study locations for the 2021–2022 school year. We will pursue the two-fold plan we were in the process of implementing before schools were shut down at the end of the 2019–2020 school year. We are identifying aggregated state test data for the districts using Benchmark Workshop and Benchmark Taller and compare those data to districts using other English and Spanish Language Arts programs, **leading to ESSA Level 2 evidence**. We are also in the process of identifying two to three districts that will be willing to share district-mandated assessment data that can be compared to national norms, **leading to ESSA Level 3 evidence**.

Previous Efforts to Study the Effects of the Intervention, Interrupted by COVID-19 Pandemic

COVID-19 Pandemic Update: Due to the shutdown of the school districts involved in the studies listed below, administration of end of year assessments in 2019–2020 to participating students was not completed, making results unavailable for analysis. As soon as possible, studies of Benchmark Workshop and Benchmark Taller will be undertaken again. This will probably not happen until the 2021–2022 school year.

Benchmark Workshop and Benchmark Taller, including all modules (Reader’s Workshop, Writer’s Workshop, and Phonics Workshop), are new programs as of the 2019–2020 school year. The efforts underway to study these programs are two-fold and will be ongoing for the next several years as more districts and schools implement one of both programs. The first type of evidence gathered for these programs will involve the aggregated state test results. The other type of evidence will be gathered from district-mandated assessments.

Currently, **approximately 27 locations within nine states** have been identified where the aggregated results of the state tests can be obtained and analyzed for the school year before the implementation of these new programs and for the current school year, 2019–2020. These results can be compared to the rest of the state minus the districts where Benchmark Workshop and/or Benchmark Taller is being implemented. Keeping in mind this is the first year

of implementing a new program for these districts, there will be a follow-up for the next two or three years to monitor the progress being made. This type of study would qualify for **ESSA Level 3 evidence**.

Two to three sites have been identified as being logical picks to understand how the programs are working due to size, demographics, implementation, and level of PD support in these districts. These sites would be using both Benchmark Workshop and/or Benchmark Taller for instruction. The individual student results data will be based on the district-mandated assessments. Appropriate statistical techniques will be applied as part of the analysis. The data request for pre- and posttest data will be made in June. The final report will be ready about 45 to 80 days after receipt of the data. This type of study would qualify for **ESSA Level 3 evidence**.