

Federal Funds + ESSA Evidence: Why PowerUp Delivers Both

Lexia® PowerUp Literacy® Meets ESSA Strong (Tier 1)



- Supported by **rigorous research** demonstrating positive outcomes for struggling adolescent readers
- Shown to **accelerate literacy growth** for students behind grade level
- Effective across **diverse secondary school** contexts
- PowerUp demonstrates positive results for **students of all backgrounds** and varying abilities
- PowerUp is proven to be up to **five times as effective** as the average middle school intervention and has been shown to enable students to make multiple years of growth in a single academic year
- In just one school year, students who used PowerUp showed a 35% improvement in reading skills

What District Leaders Gain by Choosing PowerUp

- Evidence documentation available for funding narratives
- Clear alignment with secondary literacy and intervention goals
- Confidence in using federal funds for adolescent readers

Federal Funds Require Evidence-Based Solutions

- ESSA requires district leaders to select **interventions backed by research** when using federal funds
- Choosing a solution with **ESSA Strong evidence** helps district administrators document eligibility and compliance

ESSA Evidence Tiers: Quick Refresher

- Tier 1: Strong Evidence—highest level of rigor
- Tiers 1–3 qualify as “evidence-based” under ESSA

Tier 1 = the strongest case for federal funding decisions

Tier 1—Strong Evidence:

Rigorous research with the strongest evidence of effectiveness

Tier 2—Moderate Evidence:

Well-designed quasi-experimental studies

Tier 3—Promising Evidence:

Correlational research with controls

Not All ‘Evidence’ Is the Same

ESSA tiers determine eligibility under federal law. Third-party review sites can inform decisions, but don’t replace ESSA requirements.

The right choice for ESSA-aligned secondary literacy funding. PowerUp combines ESSA Strong evidence with a proven focus on older students working to accelerate their reading skills, giving district leaders confidence that their federal funds are invested wisely.



Learn more: Review the **Lexia PowerUp Literacy Logic Model**, which walks through the evidence base, student outcomes, and ESSA alignment that make PowerUp a defensible federal funding choice.