

EVIDENCE FOR ESSA ENDORSES FACING HISTORY



OVERVIEW

Facing History is now included in “[Evidence for ESSA](#),” a resource that identifies and ranks programs that exemplify the educational standards outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) based on evidence of their efficacy. Facing History is the only History and English Language Arts program endorsed by “Evidence for ESSA.” Additionally, Facing History is only 1 of 4 programs approved for high school, 1 of 8 programs approved for middle school, and 1 of 25 programs approved for social-emotional learning.

BACKGROUND

In December 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) replaced the No Child Left Behind Act as the primary piece of legislation governing K-12 education. ESSA introduced additional measures that define what it means for an educational program to have evidence of efficacy, but exemplary programs were not initially identified. ESSA recommends adoption of approved

programs across K-12 environments but requires that schools seeking certain forms of federal funding use programs proven effective. [Researchers from Johns Hopkins University](#) created “Evidence for ESSA” to help educational leaders quickly identify ESSA-aligned curricular programs proven to drive student success. “Evidence for ESSA” performs a rigorous research and evaluation process before publishing its rankings and is considered by some to be the equivalent of *Consumer Reports* for the education industry.

ESSA defines strong, moderate, and promising evidence of effectiveness.



KEY AREAS OF DISTINCTION¹:

“Evidence for ESSA” defines strong, moderate, and promising evidence of effectiveness across a number of areas:

- **Academic:** “Evidence for ESSA” rates Facing History as STRONG in the Academic category. They note that the program promotes “significantly greater historical understanding” than approaches used in non-Facing History classrooms.
- **Social Relationships:** “Evidence for ESSA” rates Facing History as STRONG in the Social Relationships category, noting that “[a]cross all measures of social skills, students in Facing History schools outperformed students in the control schools.”
- **Civic Engagement:** “Evidence for ESSA” notes that Facing History students exhibited significantly higher levels of tolerance, civic efficacy, and engagement with civic matters than peers at non-Facing History schools. “Evidence for ESSA” does not currently rate programs in terms of their capacity to promote civic engagement.

¹ Research drawn from two randomized studies of Facing History’s program conducted by Barr et al. in 2015 and Schultz, Barr, and Selman in 2001.

[LEARN MORE AT FACINGHISTORY.ORG](https://www.facinghistory.org)

