

What Counts As Evidence

Education

The strength of different study designs, and why education has a replication problem.

Strength rises down the table, and so does cost.

Design	Answers	Weakness
Case study	What happened here	No comparison
Correlational	What goes together	Not causal
Quasi-experiment	Probably caused	Group differences
RCT	Caused, on average	Narrow, costly
Meta-analysis	Across studies	Mixed inputs
Replication	Does it hold	Rarely funded

Educational reference. Many well-known findings have shrunk or failed on replication. Prefer effects that survived a pre-registered repeat.