In 2015, as part of the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), Congress passed and the President enacted the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which replaced No Child Left Behind. ESSA encourages local and state educational agencies and schools to place a strong emphasis on evidence-based interventions, strategies, or approaches when purchasing and adopting solutions and services. Within the law, evidence-based solutions are described as programs showing evidence of producing positive results on student outcomes. Specifically, the type of evidence backed by formal research and studies.

**Sound Partners** is an explicit, balanced, phonics-based tutoring program that provides individual instruction in early reading skills. Using lessons specifically designed for tutors, paraprofessionals, and assistants, this research-based solution improves phonological skills, phonemic awareness, decoding, word identification, and spelling skills. **Sound Partners** also includes application of word-reading skills through storybook reading practice.

### TIER 1: STRONG

**ESSA defines four tiers of evidence:**
- **Tier 1—Strong:** Supported by one or more experimental studies.
- **Tier 2—Moderate:** Supported by one or more quasi-experimental studies.
- **Tier 3—Promising:** Supported by one or more correlational studies.
- **Tier 4—Demonstrates a Rationale:** Practices that have a logic model, are supported by research, and have some effort of study underway.

**STRONG Criteria as Defined by ESSA**
- Based on strong evidence from at least one well-designed and well-implemented experimental study
- Demonstrates a strong and measured impact on improving student outcomes or other relevant outcomes

**How Sound Partners Meets the Strong Criteria**
- Randomized controlled trial of students identified as benefiting from intensive additional reading instruction.
- Sample from 13 urban public schools.
- Study reported, and the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC), confirmed, positive and statistically significant effects measures of phonics, fluency, and comprehension.
- Additional studies confirm these findings.

**Published Studies:**

**Research:**
- What Works Clearinghouse
- Evidence for ESSA: Struggling Readers
- Evidence for ESSA: English Learners

For more information, visit voyagersopris.com/ESSA