

EPISODE 104

Our Penicillin Moment: A Tribute to Robert Slavin



INSTRUCTIONAL
LEADERSHIP SHOW



Essential Question



How can we make science and evidence matter in our decisions, so we can have a greater impact on students?

A Tribute to Robert Slavin



HUB 

 **JOHNS HOPKINS**
UNIVERSITY

Robert Slavin, global authority on education research and evidence-based school reform, dies at 70

He is remembered for the lives he changed through his Success for All Foundation and his dedication to meaningful education reform in America

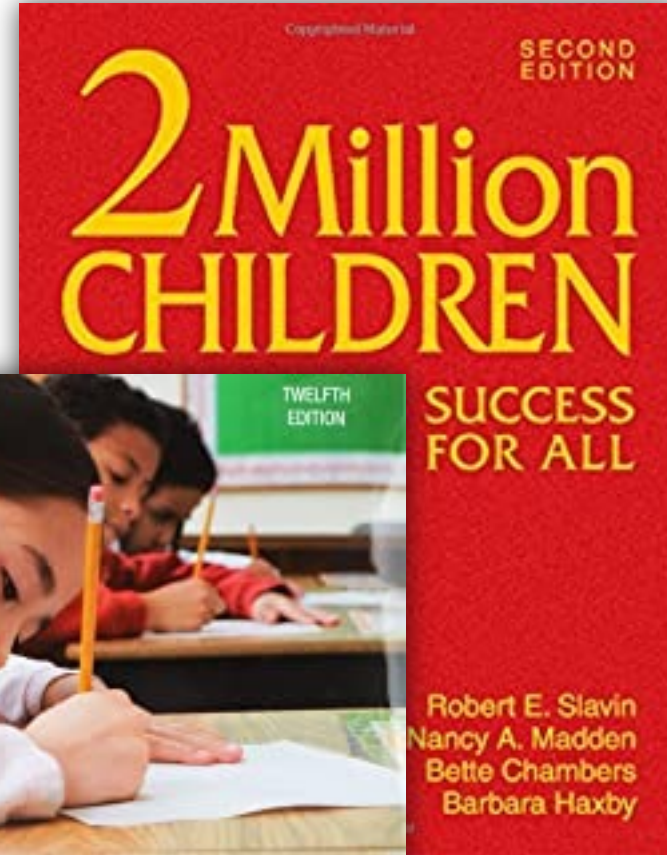
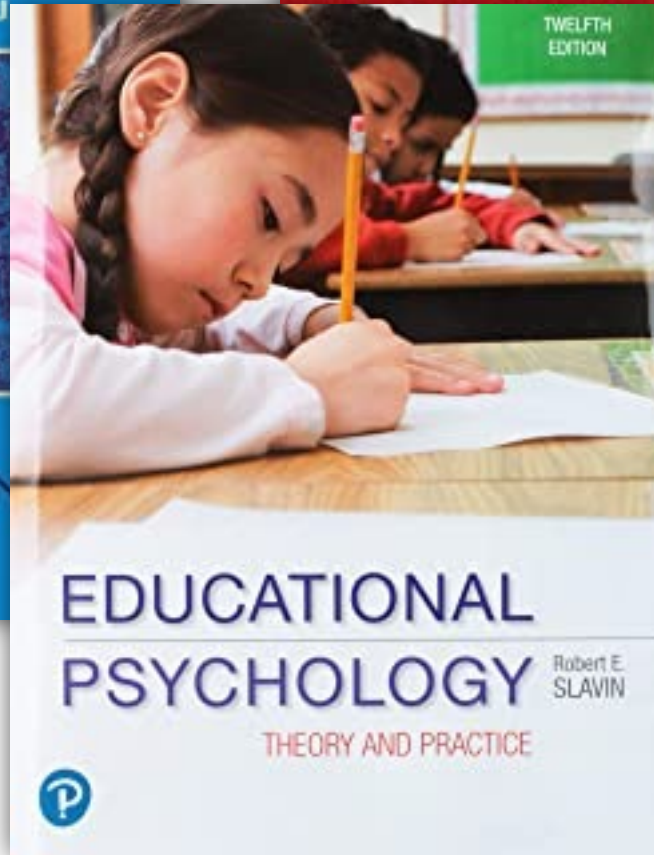
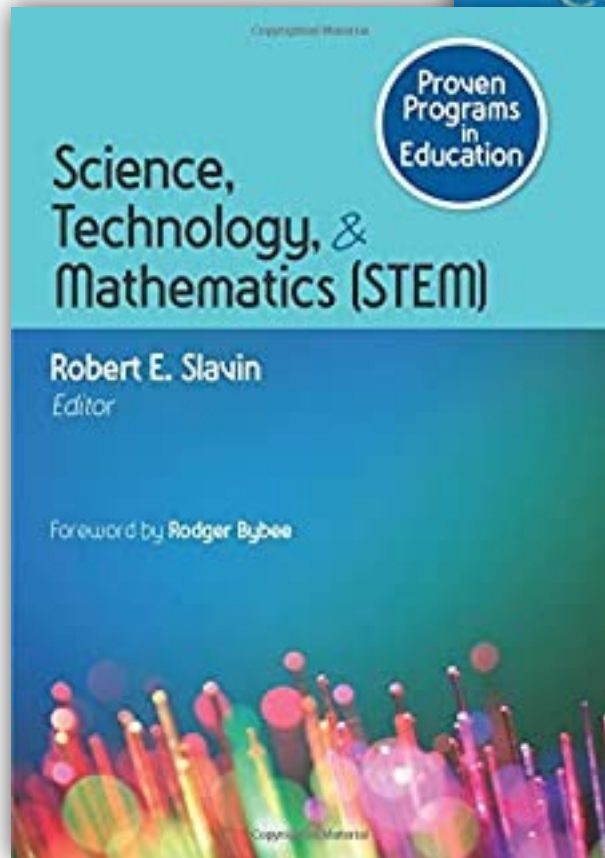


Robert Slavin, PhD



- Distinguished Professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Education
- Director of the Center for Research and Reform in Education
- Co-founder, Success for All Foundation
- Member of the National Academy of Education & AERA Fellow
- 2019 AERA Distinguished Contributions to Research in Education Award
- Author of more than 300 articles & 24 books

Robert Slavin, PhD



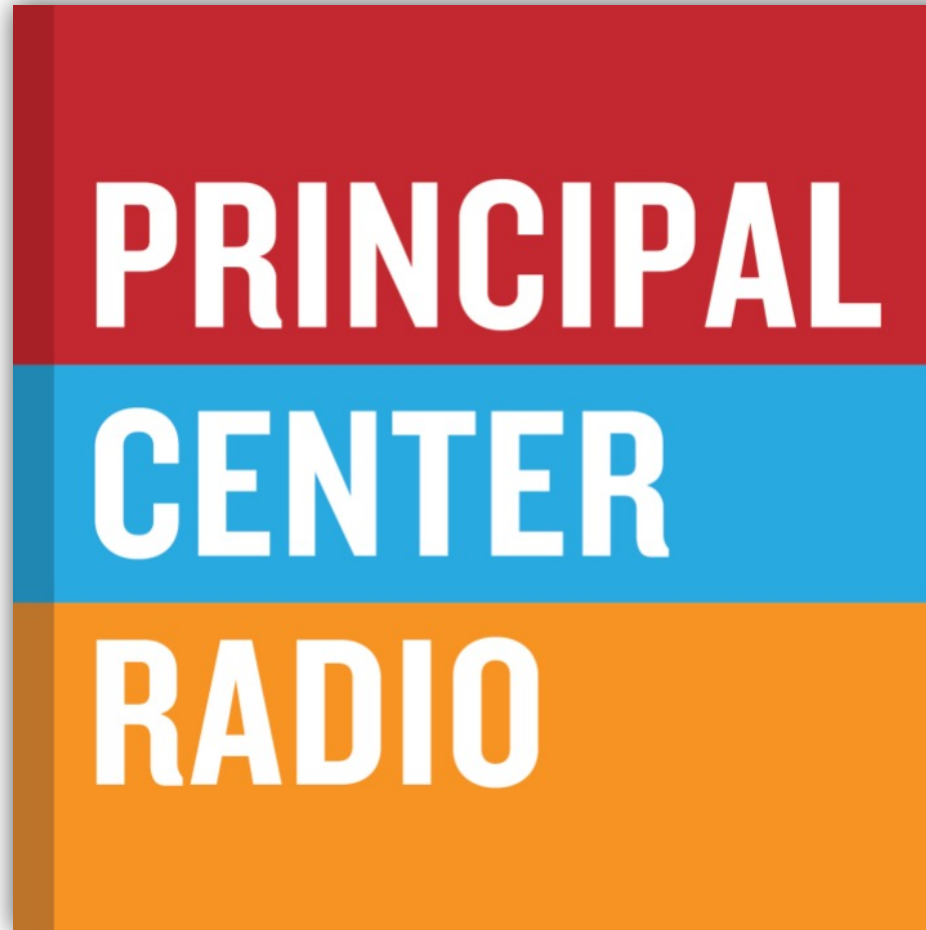
Slavin's "Marshall Plan"



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Proven Tutoring website. At the top left is the logo "Proven Tutoring" with a checkmark icon. To the right is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "About", "Our Programs", "Blog", "FAQ", and "Contact". The main content area features a large photograph of a smiling male tutor with glasses leaning over a desk to assist two young students, a girl and a boy, who are looking at a notebook. To the right of the photo, the text reads "Proven Tutoring" in a large, bold font, followed by the tagline "When student success can't be left to chance." Below this is a paragraph: "Connecting proven tutoring providers and school leaders to address unfinished learning resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic." At the bottom right of this section is a blue button that says "Find Your Program".



Slavin's "Marshall Plan"



Robert Slavin, PhD.
ProvenTutoring.org



Slavin's "Marshall Plan"

- 4 million students
- 100,000 tutors
- 14 proven tutoring programs



Slavin on Evidence



“I’ve been focused on trying to find ways to get evidence to become more important in the decisions that educators make, and it’s been rough going, I have to say, but here’s a case where the problem is obvious and the solution is obvious.”

Our Penicillin Moment



“We're hoping that we'll have the kind of impact that things like polio or penicillin had not on the health of the nation, but on the belief that science matters, that evidence actually matters, and it can make a practical difference for people. It's not just something that professors talk about, but it's something that really can make a difference at scale and really move the needle on a national basis.”



Respect for Research



“COVID vaccines...build on a long history of medical research and respect for medical research and procedures to make sure that when something is said to be effective, that it really is effective. And in education, we have nothing like that—but we could. We use exactly the same methods that medicine does...in doing high quality evaluations of educational programs, we use exactly the same methods.”

Respect for Research



“What we're hoping to have happen here is that we make a convincing demonstration at a time when people might be receptive to a convincing demonstration because of the size of the crisis we face.”

A Model, Not Just An Idea



“There are studies of tutoring programs that didn't use a specific tutoring program. They kind of made it up as they went along, and they get very bad outcomes...this is a fundamental problem that goes far beyond tutoring...people like to hear about the kind of thing that they should do, and then they go in and do it as they vaguely understand it, and they don't get the results that were reported in the journal. And they wonder why. Well, you know, the person who did the thing in the journal did it in a specific way, and you need to know what that specific way is and get the training and the materials that will replicate that, rather than making it up from scratch.”



Tutoring Can Close The Gap



- Summer school can't
- After-school programs can't
- Technology can't
- Teacher PD can't

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effect size

Tutoring Can Close The Gap

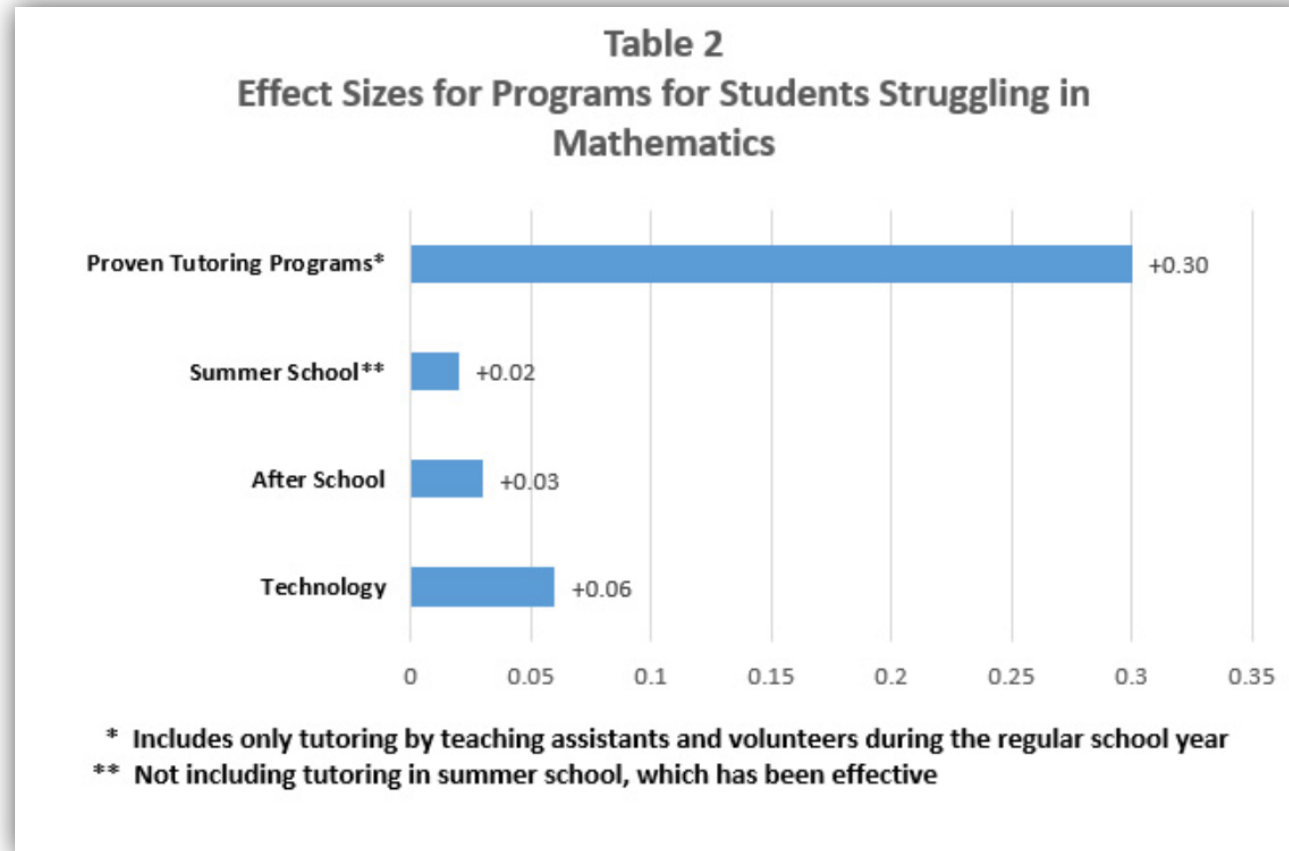


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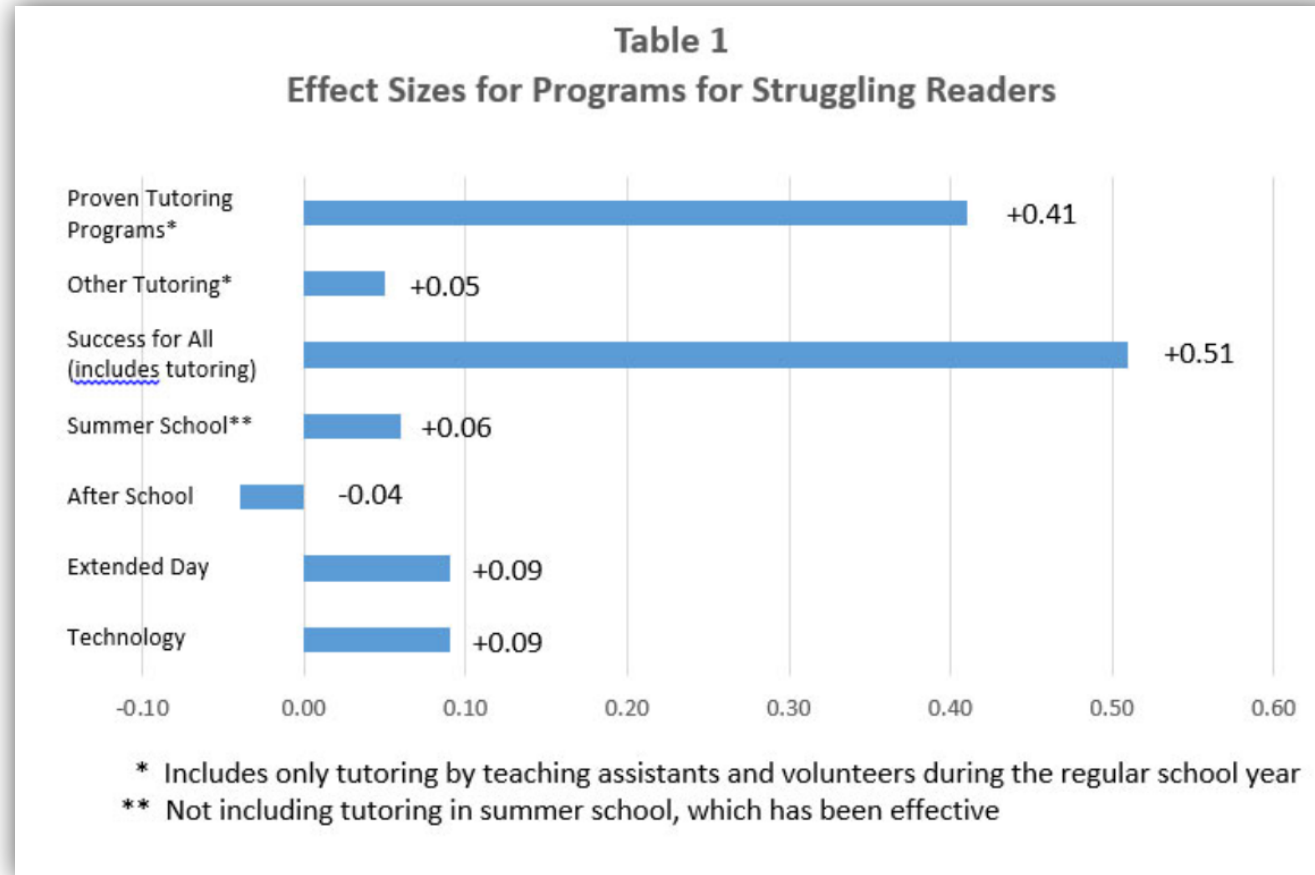
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Tutoring Can Close The Gap



Tutoring Can Close The Gap



Takeaways



- We need a renewed commitment to evidence-based practice in education
- Fidelity to a proven model matters—we can't just do whatever we think fits the title
- We must be willing to use effective practices, even if we don't like them
- Every school has students who need tutoring