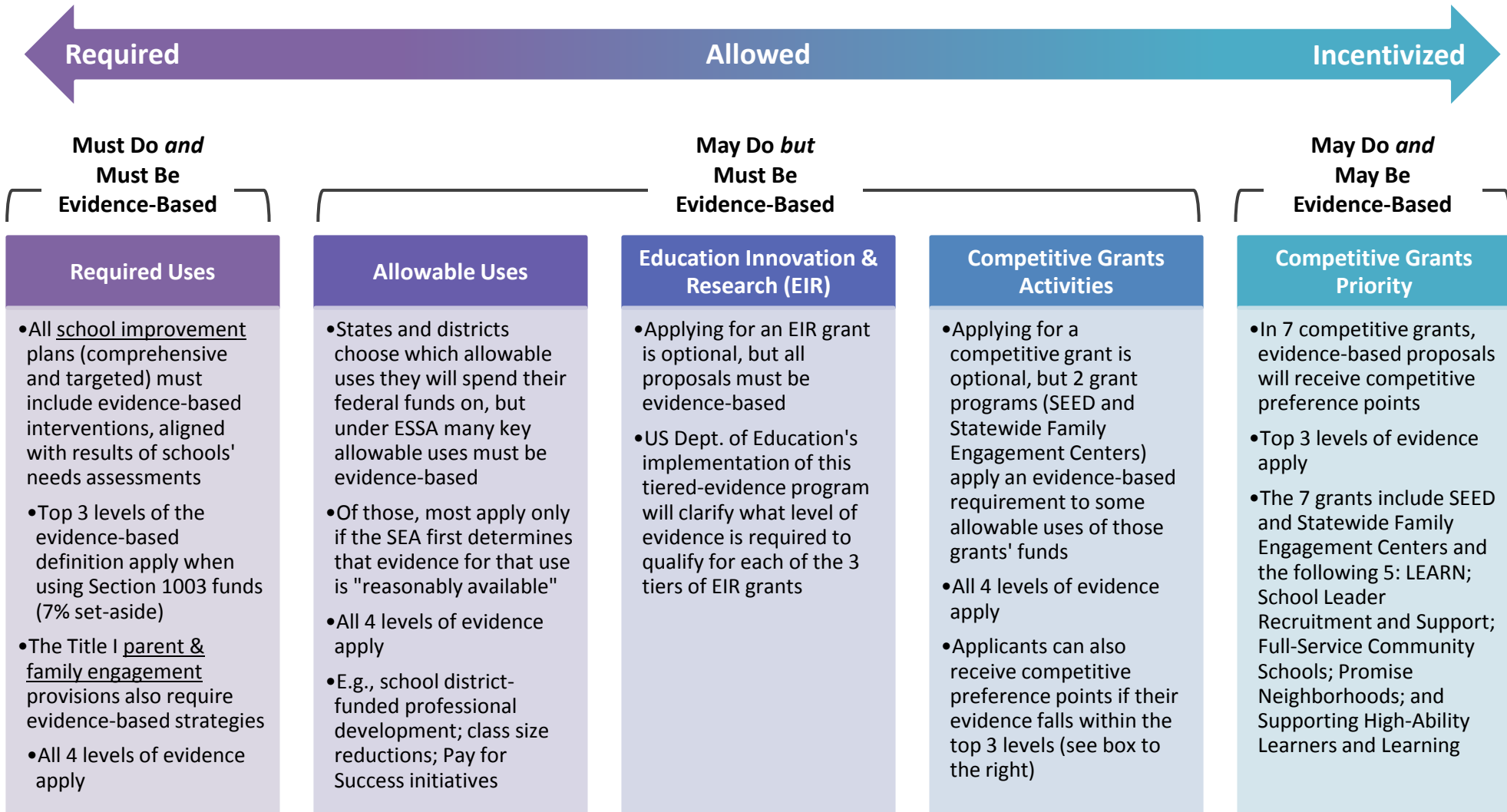


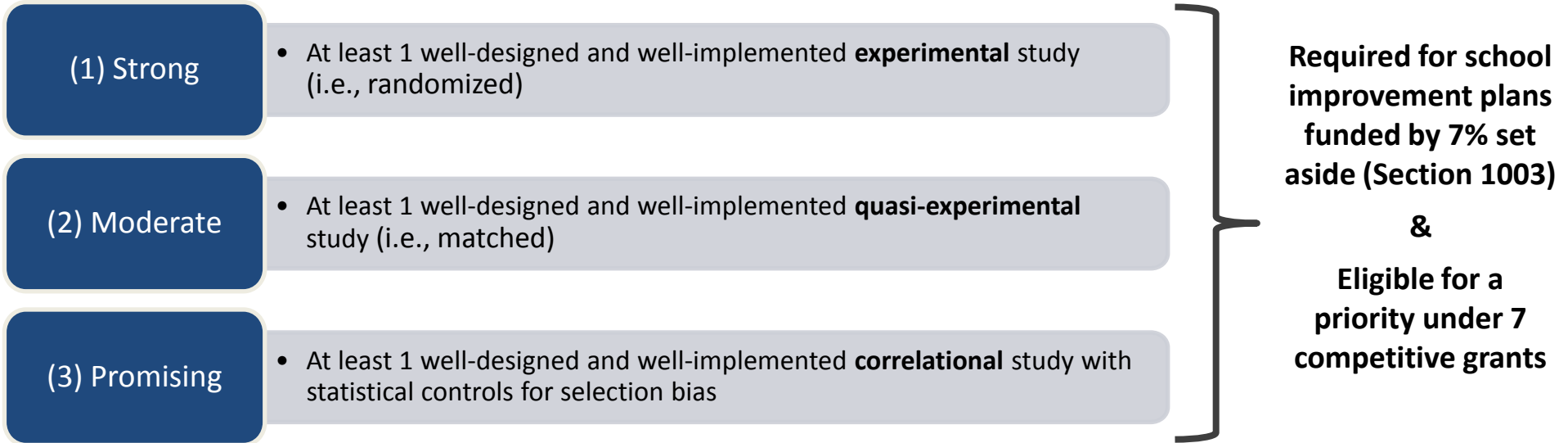
# The Evidence Provisions of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

A key aspect of ESSA is its commitment to the use of evidence to drive better outcomes for students. Implemented well, the evidence-based provisions can both improve student outcomes and increase the return on education investments, as more resources are spent on programs and practices likely to have a positive impact. This document provides a high-level summary of the various provisions (below) and an explanation of ESSA's definition of "evidence-based" (page 2).



# Definition of "Evidence-Based" in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

ESSA's definition of "evidence-based" includes 4 levels of evidence. The top 3 levels require findings of a **statistically significant effect** on improving student outcomes or other relevant outcomes based on:



The 4<sup>th</sup> level is designed for ideas that do not yet have an evidence base qualifying for the top 3 levels above. Given the requirement in the second bullet below to examine the effects of these ideas, this evidence-*building* level can be referred to as "under evaluation."

