

## Overview of the Well-Managed Schools Project

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*The purpose of this project is to evaluate the Well-Managed Schools (WMS) classroom management approach. WMS is not a student curriculum; it is a set of strategies that can be used by teachers during day-to-day classroom instruction. The strategies focus on reinforcing social skills and dealing with inappropriate behaviors, thereby creating a more structured learning environment. WMS can be implemented as a stand-alone approach or be integrated seamlessly within school-wide MTSS-B models or other student support systems.*

*The project is being directed by Dr. Cleve Redmond at Iowa State University, in collaboration with other researchers and data collection specialists from Iowa State University, and Boys Town's National Research Institute in Omaha. It is being funded by a five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences.*

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### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

- ✓ Participating schools can have up to half of their 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade regular classroom teachers trained in WMS as part of the project\*
  - ✓ Participation of teachers within schools is voluntary; participating teachers complete 5 waves of surveys and classroom observations across their two years of participation
  - ✓ Schools will receive \$50 per teacher (up to \$1,000) each year to offset the time and any inconvenience for collecting student records and allowing data collection activities
  - ✓ If WMS training takes place on school days, schools will be reimbursed for the cost of substitute teachers for teachers attending the training
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### STUDY DESIGN:

- The project will involve 440 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade regular classroom teachers in Midwestern schools
    - Once they agree to participate in the study, teachers will be randomly assigned to the WMS condition or continue with business as-usual in their classrooms
    - All teachers complete surveys and receive observations by the research team
  - Approximately 4,400 students will be selected to participate (with parental consent) in 3 brief surveys related to classroom environment
  - Each participating school will be included in one of three study cohorts:
    - Cohort 1—Academic Years 2016-17 to 2017-18
    - Cohort 2—Academic Years 2017-18 to 2018-19 (currently recruiting)
    - Cohort 3—Academic Years 2018-19 to 2019-20 (currently recruiting)
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**\* Following their 2-year project participation period, reduced cost WMS training will be available for participating teachers not selected for WMS training during the project.**

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### ROLE OF SCHOOLS AND ADMINISTRATORS:

- Allow research team recruitment of teachers
  - Allow contact with parents in participating teachers' classrooms (for purposes of student recruitment and consenting procedures)
  - Allow and provide space for recruited students to complete 3 surveys (Year 1 only)
  - Allow a total of five 20 minute observations (conducted across 2 school years) in each participating teacher's classroom
  - Provide the research team with de-identified student data for participating teachers' classrooms, including:
    - Grades, Attendance, Disciplinary referrals, Standardized achievement test scores
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### DETAILS ON TEACHER INVOLVEMENT:

#### All Teachers —

- Agree to be randomly assigned to study condition:
  - Half will be trained in *WMS* and asked to employ *WMS* classroom practices during two schools years
  - Half will continue classroom management as-usual
- Complete surveys and be observed 5 times across their two years of participation
- Receive \$175 in survey incentives

#### Teachers Assigned to *WMS* Condition —

- Attend 2-day *WMS* training (may count as CEUs or graduate credit)
    - All *WMS* training costs are covered by project funds
    - Training day salary support available if not covered by regular contract time
    - Trainings will be held in the vicinity of participating school districts
  - Receive *WMS* manual and companion workbook, posters and other *WMS* implementation resources
  - Participate in four coaching sessions with a trained *WMS* consultant
    - 20-minute observation followed by 10-minute consultation
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