

Overview of the Project

The proposed study examines the identification and intervention receipt outcomes of students in schools using both traditional referral systems and universal screening to connect youth in need with social, emotional and behavioral (SEB) interventions. It represents a first step towards identifying empirically supported universal screening implementation practices that achieve intended outcomes, including reduced unmet mental need and service receipt disparities. Goals of the proposed study include (1) Examine the identification outcomes of a universal SEB screening measure compared to the typical school referral process, and (2) Examine the intervention receipt outcomes following universal administration of a SEB screening measure. To achieve study goals, we will use Society for the Study of School Psychology (SSSP) funds to conduct a mixed methods design including six elementary schools implementing universal SEB screening for the first time in January 2018. Study schools will identify all students receiving SEB intervention monthly throughout the 2017-18 school year. We will conduct quantitative analyses to consider student and teacher characteristics that influence identification and intervention in both traditional referral and universal screening systems. We will conduct focus groups at the end of the 2017-18 school year with each school, including SEB intervention providers and leadership team members, to examine study schools' data-based decision making procedures in relation to their students' identification and intervention receipt outcomes.