

Minnesota Partnership for School Connectedness (MPSC)

The Minnesota Partnership for School Connectedness (MPSC) is a three-year intercollegiate, interdisciplinary initiative partnering the University of Minnesota with five diverse school districts throughout Minnesota to increase connectedness between sixth grade teachers and students and foster student engagement in learning.

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Konopka Institute for Best Practices in Adolescent Health
University of Minnesota

MPSC Funding

- **The Minnesota Partnership for School Connectedness (MPSC) is funded by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) at the U.S. Department of Education.**
- **MPSC is funded as a pilot study, designed to test the feasibility of the intervention. If the model is deemed feasible, a new proposal would be submitted to IES in 2012 for funding as an initiative to test the intervention's efficacy.**

Partnership - *at the University*

Between:

- **The Konopka Institute for Best Practices in Adolescent Health, Division of Adolescent Health and Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Medical School**

and

- **The Department of Educational Psychology in the College of Education and Human Development**

MPSC University Staff

At 50% time or more:

- **Program Manager Paul Snyder, MSW, MDiv**
- **Program Coordinator Pam Moore, MA**
- **Graduate Research Assistant (to be named)**

At 15% time or less:

- **Principal Investigator Michael Resnick, PhD**
- **Co-principal Investigator Sandra Christenson, PhD**
- **Communications Director Glynis Shea, BA**
- **Support Staff Person (to be named)**

Partnership - *with Intervention Schools*

- **Duluth Public Schools**
 - Morgan Park Middle School
 - Woodland Middle School
- **Maple River Public Schools**
 - Maple River Middle School
- **Mounds View Public Schools**
 - Edgewood Middle School
 - Highview Middle School
- **South Washington County Public Schools**
 - Cottage Grove Middle School
 - Woodbury Middle School
- **Worthington Public Schools**
 - Worthington Middle School

Partnership - *with Non-Intervention Schools*

- **Some schools will be engaged from among the following districts to provide a total of four Teacher Leaders (experienced teachers – recognized for their skills in engaging students – who will assist MPSC University staff in developing MPSC training components)**
 - Mounds View Public Schools
 - South Washington County Public Schools
 - Fergus Falls Public Schools
 - McGregor Public Schools
 - Minneapolis Public Schools
 - Richfield Public Schools
 - Robbinsdale Public Schools
 - St. Paul Public Schools

Other Partners

- **Advisory Committee, consisting of national experts in school connectedness, student engagement, and curriculum development for adults**
- **Youth Advisory Board members, Twin Cities greater metro high school students seeking to improve the learning experience for other youth**
- **Youth CHAT, a group of older adolescent actors from the greater Twin Cities metro who will work with the Teacher Fellows at the Training Institute**
- **The Office for Research and Consulting Services (ORCS) at the University of Minnesota, who will provide expertise in evaluation and data analysis and reporting**

MPSC Teacher Fellows

- **One sixth grade teacher will be recruited by each principal of the eight intervention schools**
- **These eight teachers will serve as teacher fellows in the MPSC professional development fellowship**
- **First fellowship cohort: August 2010 - June 2011**

MPSC Teacher Fellows (continued)

- **Requirements for completion of fellowship:**
 - Attendance and participation at Training Institute
 - Attendance and participation at all three Cohort Convenings
 - Implementation of Student Engagement Plan in classroom on a regular basis
 - Completion of fellowship paper
 - Presentation on fellowship experience to local school board
- **Recognition of completion of fellowship:**
 - Stipend of \$2,000
 - Continuing education units (CEUs)
 - One professional master's credit
- **Teacher fellows will be reimbursed for lodging and mileage costs re: attendance at the Training Institute and the Cohort Convenings**

MPSC Teacher Leaders

- **Four teachers from non-intervention schools, including some from districts other than the five districts with intervention schools, will work with MPSC University staff to:**
 - Develop MPSC training components
 - Ensure that the intervention is realistic for middle school teachers
 - Assist at the Training Institute
 - Participate in the revision process between the first year fellowship and the second year fellowship

MPSC Teacher Leaders (continued)

- Possible Teacher Leaders will be recommended from each of the eight intervention schools by the schools' principals
- To verify the recommended teacher's level of engagement with students, the Student Engagement Inventory (SEI), a validated instrument that measures levels of student engagement, will be administered to five randomly chosen students in the recommended teacher's classroom
- Teacher Leaders will receive a stipend of \$1,000

Four Key Components

1. *Three-day Training Institute*
2. *Ongoing Classroom Intervention*
3. *Three one-day Cohort Convenings*
4. *Attention to School Context*

Key Component #1

Training Institute

- A three-day Training Institute for all Teacher Fellows will occur in mid-August in the Twin Cities metro area
- Institute goal: Impart relevant knowledge, develop skills, provide support
- Build upon school and district professional development plans
- Each teacher fellow will develop a Student Engagement Plan, with learning goals for the year; student engagement strategies for application in the classroom; and areas for additional coaching
- Role plays with youth actors

Training Institute (continued)

- **Probable topics will include, but not be limited to:**
 - Stages of adolescent development
 - Principles of healthy youth development
 - Student engagement
 - Learning motivation
 - Social emotional learning (SEL)
 - Classroom organization
 - Instructional support
 - Communications skills
 - Active learning

Key Component #2

Classroom Implementation

- Every other month, the MPSC Program Coordinator and Graduate Research Assistant will observe each Teacher Fellow in his/her classroom, using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) a classroom observation tool
- The following day, the MPSC Program Coordinator will coach the teacher, using the Co-Active Coaching Model
- Attention will be focused on assuring implementation of the teacher-developed Student Engagement Plan

Key Component #3

Cohort Convenings

- Cohort Convenings for the eight Teacher Fellows will occur at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities campus, in the months of October 2010, December 2010, and February 2011
- Goal: Impart knowledge, develop skills, provide support
- Build upon school and district professional development plans
- Convenings will reinforce previous training material, introduce new material, explore implementation of the material in the classroom, provide opportunity for peer co-instruction and feedback, and troubleshoot problems
- Reimbursements will be provided to school districts for substitute teachers for Teacher Fellow classrooms will be paid for by MPSC

Key Component #4

School Context

- In November 2010, January 2011, March 2013, and May 2013, the MPSC Program Manager will visit the intervention school districts and meet with the following individuals to ensure that the initiative is progressing as intended, including diffusion of new knowledge of connectedness and student engagement techniques from Teacher Fellows to other school personnel:
 - Intervention school principals
 - Other school district personnel (including school district administrators and/or same grade team teachers)
- Communication between visits will occur by telephone, email, and video conferencing

Data Collection in Schools

- **Students in principal-recommended Teacher Leader classrooms**
 - Five items from adapted Student Engagement Inventory (SEI) – once
- **Students in Teacher Fellow classrooms**
 - Full administration of adapted SEI – twice per semester or quarter
- **Teacher Fellows**
 - Student academic achievement rating forms – three times per semester or quarter

Data Collection in Schools (continued)

- **Attendance clerk**
 - Attendance of students in Teacher Fellow's classes
– daily
- **Principals**
 - Survey Monkey electronic survey – twice per
fellowship year
- **Same grade teachers**
 - Survey Monkey electronic survey – twice per
fellowship year

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Facts about the Teacher Fellows

Each school year, there will be eight different teacher fellows, all sixth grade teachers from the following participating schools:

Duluth Public Schools:

Morgan Park Middle School, Duluth
Woodland Middle School, Duluth

Maple River Public Schools:

Maple River Middle School, Mapleton

Mounds View Public Schools:

Edgewood Middle School, Mounds View
Highview Middle School, New Brighton

South Washington County Middle Schools:

Cottage Grove Middle School, Cottage Grove
Woodbury Middle School, Woodbury

Worthington Public Schools:

Worthington Middle School, Worthington

Teacher fellows will be recruited by the school's principal.

The first fellowship year will run from August 2010 – June 2011.

A total stipend of \$2,000 will be provided to each teacher fellow for participating fully in the fellowship. Full participation includes:

- Attendance and participation at the three-day Training Institute at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus
- Implementation of their Student Engagement Plan in the classroom on a regular basis
- Attendance and participation at the three Cohort Convenings at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus
- Completion of a paper, reflecting on the fellowship experience and implementation of connectedness and engagement techniques in the classroom
- Presentation on the MPSC intervention and their fellowship experience to their local school board

The stipend will be paid in installments, upon receipt of MPSC Teacher Fellow Invoices submitted at the following times:

- \$750 after the August 2010 Training Institute
- \$250 after the Teacher Fellow Cohort Convening in October 2010
- \$250 after the Teacher Fellow Cohort Convening in December 2010
- \$250 after the Teacher Fellow Cohort Convening in February 2010
- \$500 after completion of the fellowship paper and presentation to the local school board.

(over)

In addition to the stipend, upon completion of the fellowship, teacher fellows will receive continuing education units (CEUs) one professional master's credit.

Mileage incurred related to attendance at the Training Institute and Cohort Coverings will be reimbursed at the federally determined reimbursement rate.

If needed, MPSC will cover costs for two nights' lodging related to attendance at the Training Institute.

Two of the eight teacher fellows will be asked to contribute to the development of the Training Institute in August, 2011. These two teacher fellows will receive an additional compensation of \$500 for their efforts.

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Duluth Public Schools CHECKLIST

The following items are needed from each school:

Spring 2010

- Provide MPSC staff with school professional development plan
- Start school district IRB process
- Identify 6th grade teacher who will be participating in MPSC fellowship
- Work with MPSC staff to finalize Memorandum of Understanding
- Complete required University of MN vendor authorization form
- Complete W-9 tax ID form

Fall 2010

- Provide MPSC staff with official school calendar for 2010-2011 school year (detailing breaks, staff development days, P/T conferences)
- Determine who will be the in-school contact person for MPSC staff
- Add MPSC staff to school cancellation list
- Obtain consent from participating classrooms (teachers, parents, teams, principals)