

news release

Child and Family Center/University of Oregon

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University of Oregon's Child and Family Center (CFC; Drs. Tom Dishion and Beth Stormshak) and the Oregon Research Institute (Drs. John Seeley and Keith Smolkowski) are recent recipients of a 5-year, \$6,598,994 grant from the Institute of Education Sciences. Their collaborative study will involve 44 Oregon urban, suburban, and rural public middle schools and approximately 880 teachers, 13,200 students, and 3,300 parents. The schools will be recruited in two waves, with half randomly assigned to the CFC's Family Check-Up (FCU) model and the remaining half to a control group. Previous studies have shown that middle schools are critical intervention sites for improving academic performance, reducing problem behaviors, and improving overall success as adults. The FCU intervention is assessment driven and tailored to individual youth and family needs. The study will evaluate the effectiveness of having a family resource center and parent consultant in each school providing FCUs and related family-based services known to promote the success and adjustment of students. The newly funded trial will assess the extent to which parents/caregivers engage in the family-centered services and the effectiveness of the services for promoting school attendance, academic performance, and decreased critical incidents of student problem behavior. A three-tier implementation plan includes engaging parents in each school's existing positive behavior support (PBS) system, a program developed at the University of Oregon that promotes behavior management at school and at home; teachers' rating of students on attendance, academic performance, and PBS behavioral expectations; and engaging parents in a collaborative relationship with the school and participation in the FCU.

For more information about this grant award or other research conducted at the Child and Family Center, contact CFC codirectors Dr. Tom Dishion or Dr. Beth Stormshak at 346-4805.

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