

RUTGERS WHOLE SCHOOL RESTORATIVE PRACTICES PROJECT

The Morningside Center Whole School Restorative Practices (RP) Project is a randomized controlled trial (RCT) of a whole school discipline reform program based on integrating restorative practices and social emotional learning (SEL) curriculum in 18 K-12 public schools in Brooklyn, NY. The whole school RP program is designed to build community among administrators, teachers, staff, students, and families within a school to strengthen relationships and reduce exclusionary discipline, like office discipline referrals and suspensions. Our program evaluation asks: Does the Whole School RP Project have a positive impact on reducing overall discipline referrals and especially reducing disparities in discipline referrals of Black, male, and special education students in elementary, middle, and high schools in a high needs district?

The Rutgers Evaluation team is interested in recruiting highly motivated undergraduate research assistants to play a vital role in collecting and processing data to evaluate the impact of the whole school RP project. This will be an outstanding opportunity for students interested in a large scale, multi-year research project and intervention focused on reducing punitive punishment and exclusionary discipline, closing the discipline gap for Black, male, and special education students, strengthening teachers' and students' SEL skills, and improving overall school climate. We seek students who might be able to commit to the project over multiple semesters.

Objectives:

Undergraduate research assistants working with this project will:

- earn course credit for a psych 300 level or 400 level course;
- gain research experience in a multi-year RCT in high-needs elementary, middle, and high schools;
- assist in the collecting and processing of research data, including teacher surveys, student surveys, and program implementation data;
- learn about and discuss racial inequities in schools, especially involving the reducing the discipline gap

Requirements:

- Begin work in January 2018 for the spring semester and continue through Spring 2020 (if possible).
- Rutgers academic credit may be awarded for each fall and spring semester.

- Approximately 8 hours per week between the hours of 9am and 5pm in the GSAPP building including a lab team meeting, schedule to be determined.
- CITI online basic course for involvement in human subject research.

Preferred:

- Some volunteer hours over the summer term (financial compensation may be available for summer hours)
- Site visits to Brooklyn schools for survey administration in May of each program year (2018-2020); reimbursement for travel to school sites is available, schedule to be determined.
- NYC DOE fingerprinting and background check in order to enter schools.

Application:

Students interested in applying to participate in the Whole School RP Project should submit a completed application along with a current resume to project manager Allison Ward-Seidel. Applications can be found on Psychweb: <http://psych.rutgers.edu/research-opportunities>

Application deadline is Wednesday, Nov 15, 2017. (see attachment)