Project Title: National Research and Development Center on Serious Behavior Disorders at the Secondary Level

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Sponsor: Lehigh University (USDE-IES)
Sponsor Award Number: R324C080006 (Subaward Agreement)
Duration Dates: 07/01/08-06/30/13

Brief Description of Project:
Purpose: The primary objective of this project is to develop and evaluate the efficacy of a package of intervention strategies designed to reduce the significant behavioral and academic challenges experienced by high school students with behavior disorders. In addition, the research team will conduct supplementary studies to address key issues in special education and are responsive to the needs of policymakers and secondary-level special education practitioners; broadly disseminate their findings; and provide national leadership on services for high school students with behavior disorders. The Center’s long-term goal is to improve the behavior, social, and academic outcomes of secondary students with serious behavior disorders.

Project Activities: The Center will develop, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive set of intervention strategies across three core intervention components: Enhancing school and teacher capacity, building youth competence, and increasing family and community supports. The intervention package will include multiple components addressing academics and behavior (e.g., classroom structure, teacher-student interactions, evidence-based academic instruction), youth competence in social skills, mental health, and general living skills (e.g., making healthy choices, organization and study skills, mentoring, securing effective therapy), and increasing family and community supports (e.g., parent guidance, homework guidance, and linking schools to community therapy and supports).