



# Washington State University

## College of Education, Sport and Human Sciences

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Will defend their dissertation on

Date: June 23, 2026

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Vancouver Campus: VUB, Room 311

Zoom: Link by request [ceshs.gradstudies@wsu.edu](mailto:ceshs.gradstudies@wsu.edu)

Title:

## EXPLORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACADEMIC MTSS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL USING AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

Chair: Kristin Huggins

Abstract:

Academic MTSS and Early Warning Systems (EWS) are both expected to present at the high school level to identify students at-risk and provided interventions to prevent students from dropping out. However, despite the research indicating the need and policies requiring both, there is limited research on what are the core components of academic MTSS using an EWS and how the core components of academic MTSS are addressing using an EWS at the high school level and staff's perception of the challenges, effectiveness, and success of coordinating the two frameworks. Using survey data from 120 high school staff across six Midwest states and one Northwest state, the results indicated that staff understood both frameworks, indicators and thresholds are implemented but reported interventions and progress monitoring are lacking. The challenge of implementation follows the trend of current research, lack of support, and adds lack of specific secondary-level interventions. Further research is needed in combining the two frameworks into one specifically focused on the high school level, allowing practitioners to focus on consistency when implementing core components of a singular framework.