

# Research Grant Participation Opportunity for Georgia Middle Schools

## The Development of a Word-Reading and Spelling Intervention for Middle School Students with Word-Level Reading Difficulties and Disabilities

### What is the goal of this project?

- The goal of this project is to collaboratively develop an evidence-based word-reading and spelling intervention for middle school students with reading difficulties and disabilities (e.g., specific learning disabilities in reading, dyslexia) that is practical and feasible for current middle school teachers.

### What will happen?

- Eligible schools and teachers will work with Dr. Kelly J. Williams at the University of Georgia to develop and test intervention lessons, activities, and materials. Possible research activities include attending trainings, implementing lesson activities, providing verbal and written feedback on lesson activities, etc.

### What will the intervention include?

- Lessons will be based on existing evidence-based practices (e.g., explicit and systematic instruction, strategies for decoding multisyllabic words) and include engaging materials and activities that meet the unique needs of middle school students and their teachers.

### Who is eligible to participate?

- Educators must have a current teaching certificate (e.g., Reading Specialist, Special Education General Curriculum, Middle Grades Reading or Language Arts, English 6-12) and experience teaching secondary students with reading difficulties or disabilities.
- Students must be in grades 6-8 and have word-level reading difficulties or disabilities.
- Schools must be located within ~80 miles of Athens, Georgia.

### How much will it cost?

- Nothing! All grant-related activities (e.g., teacher training, lesson plans, lesson materials) will be covered by the grant award.

### About the Principal Investigator: Dr. Kelly J. Williams



Dr. Williams will be joining the faculty at the University of Georgia in August of 2023. She spent the last five years as an assistant professor in the special education program at Indiana University where she developed and coordinated the Dyslexia Graduate Certificate program. She has expertise in the Science of Reading, including reading and spelling interventions for adolescents with reading difficulties and disabilities (e.g., learning disabilities, dyslexia). Previously, Dr. Williams was a special education teacher and reading specialist at Statesboro High School in Bulloch County, Georgia.

**Ready to learn more? Email Dr. Williams at [kjwilli@indiana.edu](mailto:kjwilli@indiana.edu) or [click here to schedule a Zoom meeting.](#)**