A rigorous impact study found the Early Warning Intervention and Monitoring System (EWIMS) is a promising strategy for getting students back on track for graduation.

Regional Education Laboratory (REL) Midwest used a randomized controlled trial – the most rigorous study design – to examine the impact of EWIMS on students and schools.

In the study, schools were randomly assigned to use EWIMS or not use EWIMS during the 2014/15 school year.

**EWIMS** is a systematic approach used by dedicated teams of school staff to **identify** students at risk of not graduating on time, **assign** students to interventions, and **monitor** their progress.

**EWIMS** seven step process:

1. Establish roles & responsibilities
2. Use the EWS tool
3. Review EWS data
4. Interpret EWS data
5. Assign & provide interventions
6. Monitor student progress
7. Evaluate & refine the EWIMS process

The **indicators used** to identify students at risk in this study were:

- **Engagement** (attendance)
- **Behavior** (suspension)
- **Course Performance** (grades and credits)


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After one year of implementation, **EWIMS reduced** the percentages of students with **chronic absences** and **course failures**

EWIMS did not have an effect on the percentages of students with low grade point average, one or more suspensions, or low credit accumulation.

Although **EWIMS** shows real promise, it was challenging for schools to implement.

- **Only 2 schools** implemented the full model at moderate or high levels.
- **8 schools** stopped using **EWIMS** during the year of the study.

Common **challenges** included:

- Difficulty importing data into the tool.
- **Staff turnover** (challenges getting new team members up to speed).
- **Limited staff time to fully implement EWIMS**.

This is one of the first studies to evaluate the effectiveness of an early warning system in schools. See the full report for additional details on EWIMS implementation and impact.