# Thank Goodness for the Pilot: Field Procedure Lessons from the Study of Iowa High Schools

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- Challenges in Education Research
  - Timing of data collection
  - Difficult-to-reach population
  - Educational policies
- Study of Iowa High Schools Design
- Study of Iowa High Schools Challenges & Lessons
  - Recruitment
    - Principals
    - Parents
  - Data collection
- Looking ahead



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- Pilot study with five schools followed by larger, 50-school study
- Quasi-experimental design
  - Matching schools based on certain criteria
- Involved teacher, parent and student surveys and assignment collection
- UWSC field representatives and principal-elected in-school representatives



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## Recruitment Lessons: Principals

- Simplify and condense study specific info
- Focus on requirements and benefits of study
  - Time required
  - Reports that they will receive
- Be aware of timing
- Ally with gatekeepers and key contacts









#### Recruitment Lessons: Parents

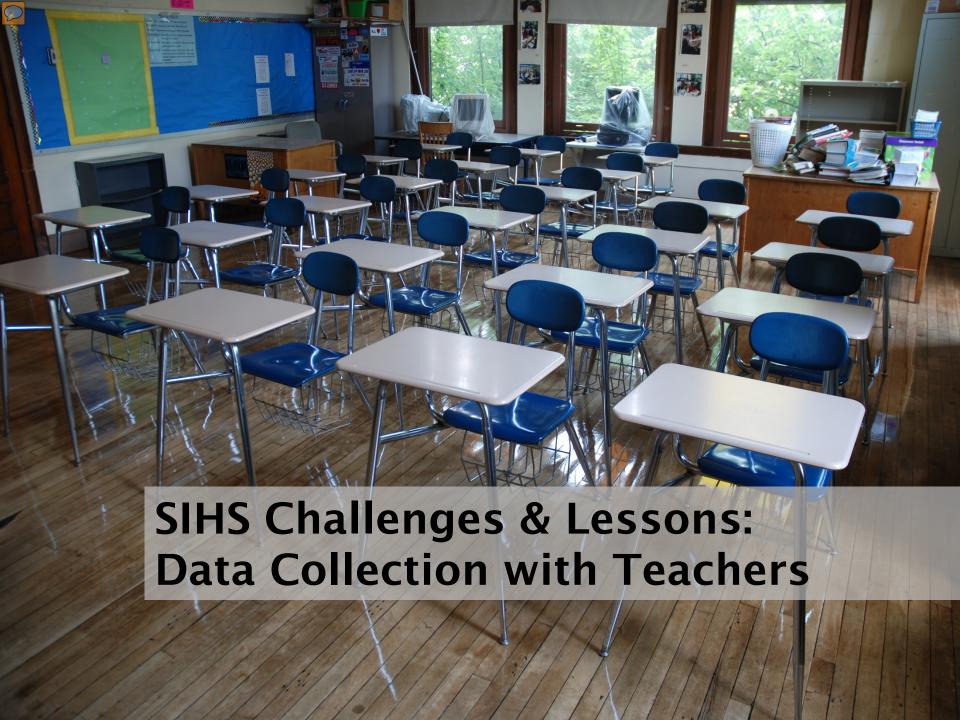
- Ensuring paper gets home to parents
  - Emails home
  - Incentive considerations
- Adequate time for reminders and collection



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- $\bigcirc$
- 1 Debbi Banerjee
- (2) Laura Quinn
- (3) Carin Smith
- (9) Joey Treadwell >
- (5) Mark Piché
- (6) Anna Lake
- (9) Robin Martins
- (8) Sarah Lang 11th
- (9) Eric Allen
- To) Laurence Stevens
- 11) Julie Gilberts

(Rest in 9th)

10th

Marie Jones 8th hour Algebra



# STUDY OF lowa High Schools

Please use the table below to enter the full student roster for all 9th and 10th graders in the following classes:

Class 1: Martin Martinson, 2nd Period - Math 101

Class 2: Mary Maryson, 2nd Period - Geometry

Class 3: Tony Bologna, 1st Period - Social Studies

Class 4: Tanya Harding, Day 3 - 5th Period - Political Science

If students are in multiple classes, please include them for EACH class that they are in.

You can copy and paste information into the columns using CTRL +V. You can also copy and paste information that you've already entered into the table - for example, you can select the Teacher Last Name by clicking the grey arrow in the table and then selecting the teacher name. When the box is highlighted in blue, use CTRL+C to copy, and then CTRL+V to paste down the column for as many students as you have entered for that class.

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#### **Data Collection Lessons**

- Build knowledge about the population
  - Get help from insiders
  - Know the language
- Standardize collection
  - Provide example templates
  - Encourage others to enter data/provide electronic form via web
- Have a back-up plan



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**Looking Ahead** 

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#### Thank You!

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