



## ASSESSMENT TEAM

### University of California, Irvine

**Project Name:** Optimizing Learning Opportunities for Students' (OLOS) Early Learning Observation System

**Setting:** The assessment team will begin development in southern California PreK and early elementary schools, serving ethnic/racial minorities, English Language Learners and children living in poverty.

Following initial development, the assessment team will work with other members of the Early Learning Network to pilot-test and validate the OLOS Early Learning Observation System. These settings include Boston, Massachusetts; Fairfax County, Virginia; rural and urban school districts in Nebraska; rural counties in North Carolina; and selected school districts in Ohio.

**Researchers:** Carol Connor, Ph.D. (PI)  
Deborah Lowe Vandell, Ph.D.

## RESEARCH TEAMS

### MDRC

**Project Name:** Boston P-3: Identifying Malleable Factors for Promoting Student Success

**Setting:** The research studies will take place in Boston Public Schools community-based PreK programs and early elementary schools in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Researchers:** JoAnn Hsueh, Ph.D. (PI)  
Christina Weiland, Ed.D.  
Catherine Snow, Ph.D.

Jason Sachs, Ph.D.  
Nonie Lesaux, Ph.D.  
Deborah Ball, Ph.D.



## University of Nebraska–Lincoln

**Project Name:** Learning Frontiers: PreK to Grade 3

**Setting:** The Learning Frontiers studies will take place in 12 geographically-dispersed school districts across Nebraska (10 rural and 2 urban).

**Researchers:** Susan Sheridan, Ph.D. (PI)  
Lisa Knoche, Ph.D.  
Iheoma Iruka, Ph.D.

James Bovaird, Ph.D.  
Mark DeKraai, Ph.D.  
Amanda Witte, Ph.D.

## University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Project Name:** Early Education in Rural North Carolina

**Setting:** The research studies will take place in six rural counties in North Carolina. Three counties have a higher expenditure rate per publicly-funded PreK classroom and the other three counties have a lower expenditure rate per publicly-funded PreK classroom.

**Researchers:** Margaret Burchinal, Ph.D. (PI)  
Ellen Peisner-Feinberg, Ph.D.  
Lora Vogel-Cohen, Ph.D.

Ximena Franco, Ph.D.  
Claire Baker, Ph.D.  
Lynne Vernon-Feagans, Ph.D.

Mary Bratsch-Hines, Ph.D.

## Ohio State University

**Project Name:** Early Learning Ohio: Critical Contributions of Classroom Ecology to Children's Learning

**Setting:** The research studies will take place in the state of Ohio.

**Researchers:** Laura Justice, Ph.D. (PI)  
Kelly Purtell, Ph.D.  
Jessica Logan, Ph.D.

Tzu-Jung Lin, Ph.D.  
Hui Jiang, Ph.D.  
Jennifer Bostic

## University of Virginia

**Project Name:** FP-3: Building an Effective PreK-3 Education System: Actionable Aspects of Policies, Programs, Schools and Classroom Processes that Promote Children's Learning in the Nation's 11th Largest School District

**Setting:** These studies will be conducted in Fairfax County Public Schools in Northern Virginia.

**Researchers:** Robert Pianta, Ph.D. (PI)  
Virginia Vitiello, Ph.D.  
Jessica Whittaker, Ph.D.

Eric Ruzek, Ph.D.  
Marcia Kraft-Sayre, LCSW

## NETWORK LEAD TEAM

### University of Nebraska–Lincoln

**About:** The lead team provides guidance, coordination and administration for Network activities, with the goal of facilitating supplemental research opportunities and disseminating findings to researchers, practitioners and policymakers.

The lead team will provide technical assistance to **Preschool Development Grantees** to enhance their capacity to conduct high-quality program evaluations.

**Researchers:** Susan Sheridan, Ph.D. (PI)  
Lisa Knoche, Ph.D.  
Sommer Fousek

**PDG Grantees:** If you have questions about the Early Learning Network or would like to request technical assistance, please contact the Network Lead team at [earlylearningnetwork@unl.edu](mailto:earlylearningnetwork@unl.edu).