

## SIMS Video Script

A few years ago, educators in Madison noted that excellent strategies were being used by teachers to support children who are not learning, but there was no systematic way to share information between teachers or to monitor the progress of these students over time. In order to keep this valuable information from being lost as children moved from grade to grade, SIMS was created.

Bryan Young video clip

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about SIMS, the Student Intervention Monitoring System. Created by the Madison Metropolitan School District with support from the Department of Public Instruction, SIMS is a software program designed to track and monitor interventions for students who are not learning.

This video contains

- an introduction to the basic features of the tool,
- benefits seen by districts using SIMS, and
- considerations for a district that would like to use SIMS in the future.

The following footage provides a brief overview of the SIMS tool. This is a demonstration site for the SIMS tool. There are additional features that are not shown. All student information contained in this demo is fictitious.

- First a school is selected from the drop down menu.
- Each district in the state will have their own unique log in to the SIMS system.
- Within each school there is a drop down of all grade levels.
- The tool can display all students within a grade level, or students can be sorted by active intervention categories.
- **Center of screen...**This screen shows all students.
- **Left side of screen...**On the left side of the screen is a legend displaying symbols for these interventions. The tool is currently used for attendance and behavior at all grade levels and for math and language arts at the elementary grades. Core practice documents and other intervention menus are accessible from within this portion of the tool as well.
- **Right side of screen...**By hovering over one of these icons next to the student's name, it is possible to get greater detail regarding an active intervention.
- It is important to remember that the SIMS tool is customizable to individual district needs. Different subject areas, grade levels, and ability groups can be added to SIMS. The content can be modified to fit the instructional framework of each district. Each district will have to identify thresholds for these flags to appear.
- Within the profile of a particular student there are multiple opportunities to record and access information related to this student. Educators can collaborate electronically or enter notes from their collaborative conversations in this part of the tool.
- By selecting a new intervention for this student under the objective of attendance and within the category of School Support Strategies, several intervention options appear in the drop down menu.
- By choosing "Design and Incentive Plan," the progress monitoring portion of the tool becomes visible. The frequency and duration of the intervention is set here. Different participants and comments can be added as well.
- After saving this intervention, it appears in the child's active intervention list where it is visible to every pertinent staff member.
- If the intervention sought is not available in the tool, it is possible to create custom intervention.
- This overview is been brief and did not include all of the features available within the tool.
- Additionally, it is important to keep in mind that this tool is currently programmed for use with the Infinite Campus student information system. Programming is underway to make the tool compatible with Skyward and PowerSchool as well.

SIMS has been beneficial to district because it...

- Enables support and documentation of collaborative conversations
- Promotes dialogue around student needs amongst teaching teams, pupil services staff, and administration.
- Contains an emphasis on problem solving processes and early intervening services to remove barriers to learning and to promote student success.
- Can be used as a framework to connect district professional development around equity issues, problem solving, professional learning communities, collaboration, Early Intervening Services, Response to Intervention, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, or data retreats.
- SIMS has also helped user districts respond to the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and Adequate Yearly Progress, the reauthorization of IDEA 2004, and Disproportionality.

Jayne Werner video clip

Important programmatic decisions must be made by a district considering using SIMS. A district would need to engage in the process of...

1. aligning the tool with their district instructional framework,
2. selecting intervention strategies to populate the tool,
3. making decisions about which student data to include,
4. identifying the intervention thresholds, and
5. creating time for staff members to work in teams to discuss issues with students.

There are also important technology-related decisions for district to consider ...

1. staff will need access to computers,
2. While great efforts have been made to ensure compatibility with a variety of student information systems currently in use across the state, some technology support at the district or CESA level will be needed to move data and support users.

Additionally, the statewide version of SIMS has been created in an open source environment. While there are no fees to use SIMS, participating districts should become involved in a users' group designed to provide mutual support and identify potential upgrades to the system. Hosting costs will be provided at no cost to districts.

These are just a few of several important actions that must be taken for successful use of the SIMS tool. There is no single way to use SIMS. Initial use of SIMS may look different in each district depending on readiness and district needs.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the Student Intervention Monitoring System.