**Problem**

How do we increase graduation rates in Massachusetts’ public school? We know that schools with more economically disadvantage students have a lower graduation rate. Schools with more than 66% economically disadvantage students have a graduation rate of 51%, whereas, schools with less than 33% economically disadvantage students have a graduations rate of 94%.

**Potential​ ​Solution**

We hypothesize that a Study Hall Course would increase graduations rate. The Study Hall Course would be offer during school hours and would be offered like any other high schools course. Free school supplies such as pencils, pen and paper would be available.

**Methods**

The study will consist of two randomized samples of high schools in Massachusetts. The samples will include schools with both high and low percentage of economically disadvantage students. ​Both samples will contain half of the economically disadvantage students. The variable of interest is the graduation rate. The schools in the treatment will offer the Study Hall Course . Other variables to measure are dropout rates and GPA. The​ ​initial​ ​sample​ ​for the​ ​treatment​ ​will​ ​cover​ ​approximately​ ​10%​ ​of​ ​all​ high schools​.​ The control will not offer the Study Hall Course

The​ ​entire​ ​duration​ ​of​ ​the​ ​study​ ​will​ ​span​ ​over​ ​4 years.​ ​At​ ​the end of the first school year,​ ​the​ ​treatment’s​ ​initial​ ​report​ ​will ​measure graduation rates, dropout rates and student GPA. ​If​ ​schools in the treatment have a drop of 5% or more across all variables being measured,​ ​then​ ​the​ ​study​ ​will​ ​be cancelled.​ ​Otherwise,​ ​the​ ​study​ ​will​ ​continue​ ​and​ ​the​ ​sample​ ​size​ ​will​ ​be​ ​increased​ ​to​ ​50% of high schools.

At​ ​the​ ​end​ ​of​ ​the​ four year study, the graduation rates, dropout rates and GPA will be measured in both samples. The review at the end will also look for significant differences​ ​in​ ​the measured variables. If​ ​the schools​ ​in​ ​the​ ​treatment​ ​have a higher graduation rates then the study was successful and the Study Hall Course should be offered at all schools. If the graduation rates did not increase in any meaningful way, but the GPAs had a significant increase, it should be up to the school whether they offer the course.