

Request #: 461 - TEAL - Dissertation

Teacher Home Visits: Perceptions and Expectations of Key Stakeholders

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Background

Teacher home visits have been shown to improve family engagement, student academic performance and student attendance. I am proposing a look at the change in perceptions and/or expectations of parents, at-risk students, and teachers that accompany the home visit.

The setting is a suburban junior high of about 2000 total students. Home visits (using the definition in the study) are performed by willing teachers to families that consent to the visit. I am looking specifically at at-risk students' homes. Each of these create a constraint on the pool of possible candidates.

Sample

I am planning to collect surveys from parents, students, and teachers. A subset of each group will be interviewed.

Sample size--this is one of my questions. Given the constraints listed above what would be an acceptable sample size?

Hypothesis

This is intended to be an exploratory case study. Previous studies have shown good effects from home visits and I am exploring the perceptions of key stakeholders in this process. 1. How do family's perceptions of and relationships with the child's school and teacher change for families of at-risk students who experience a home visit? 2. How do teachers' expectations of and relationships with at-risk students and their families change for teachers who engage in home visits with at-risk students and their family? 3. How do students' expectations of and relationships with their teacher change for at-risk students who experience a home visit?

Progress

Currently preparing to complete and defend my proposal.

Request

I would like to discuss how best to effectively approach my research questions. Specifically, what would be acceptable sample sizes, what analysis will lend to discerning acceptable results.

Timeline

I hope to defend my proposal at the end of May. I would like to meet as soon as possible to clean up some of my methods prior to sending my proposal to my committee for their two week perusal.