



**MISA PNC Thunder Bay Region
2017-2018 Action Research Project Final Reporting**

As referenced in the MISA PNC Plan, Priority Funding Area 2, Research and Evaluation

Each project team will submit a final report in the form of an abstract. Each abstract will be presented to the MISA Leaders and posted to the PNC website as a reference to all member boards. Poster or electronic presentations will be presented at the 2017-2018 NOEL Leadership Conference and / or to NOEL Directors during the 2017-2018 school year. Other opportunities to share learning will be explored with Lakehead University and other MISA PNCs.

Final Report Due May 30, 2018

Please submit to Colleen Kappel, MISA Executive Lead via email
Colleen_Kappel@lakeheadschoos.ca

Upon receipt of the final report, the remaining 25% (\$2,500) of funds will be dispersed.



MISA PNC ACTION RESEARCH PROJECT FINAL FUNDING REPORT
2018

DUE DATE: Wednesday, May 30, 2018

Board:	Lakehead District School Board
Topic:	Student Absenteeism
Lead:	Heather Harris
Email:	Heather_harris@lakeheadschoools.ca

What did you learn?

The main correlates of chronic student absenteeism are:
 Students Level data: illness/injury, poverty, anxiety, parenting, travel/vacation, siblings, transportation/walkability, mobility/transience, lack of home routines, home responsibilities, sports/activities, student mental health, chronic lates, Indigenous background and kindergarten parents not ready to send child.
 School Level data: boring teachers/student engagement, teacher short-term absence due to illness, bullying and school size.

There are clusters of correlates of absenteeism:

- Direction of correlation with absenteeism:
 - Positive: as these increase, absenteeism increases
 - Negative: as these increase, absenteeism decreases
- Levels:
 - Student
 - School
 - Neighbourhood
- Some examples...

	Positive	Negative
Student level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility • Asthma • Poor relationship with peers at school • Poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement • Social trust • Parental involvement • Relationship with caring adult in and out of class
School level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher short-term absence • School violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean washrooms • Staff PD on <u>behaviour</u> and absenteeism
Community level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Neighbourhood</u> poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family-school-community partnership activities

School need access to ongoing easily accessible attendance data.

The community was not aware of the attendance data in the northwest region.

The technical expertise of our IT department has been instrumental for the creation of school-based templates and access to absenteeism data.

Research expertise was invaluable and helped the research team develop two research studies.

Current Research

- What is the prevalence of chronic, moderate, and excessive levels of absence for the board?
- What are the main predictors of student absence in grades 1-8 and 9-12?

Future Research:

- What is the relationship between absenteeism rate and student achievement?

What will you do next time?

The research team will investigate the data collected from secondary school visits.

The research team will begin to work on Future research question (mentioned above).

What are your recommendations?

Important to have a deeper understanding of the current absenteeism data before looking at the connection to student achievement.

Include sufficient dollars as part of the research project or other avenues of funding to share the research and findings.

Total Dollars Allocated: \$ 10,000

Activity Description	Expenditures
Stakeholder Interviews/Focus Groups/Working Groups Professional Development Materials, supplies, technology	\$10,000.00
Research	\$2,000.00
Total	\$12,000.00

Submitted by: Heather Harris

Date: June 19, 2018