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Oak Avenue Elementary: Attendance Awareness Project

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Abstract

Oak Avenue Elementary school is in Greenfield, California and serves students from grades kindergarten to sixth grade. The broader social problem within Greenfield, is too few students graduating from high school. The agency problem is there are too many elementary school children absent from school. This was an educational intervention implemented at the school where information was provided to parents and students about the importance of school attendance. Posters were created to promote good attendance habits within the school and presentations were provided for parents and students. The presentations helped parents and students develop a better understanding of the importance of attending school every day. The purpose of the project was to help improve the attendance rate within the school. For the next step, the agency should continue promoting the importance of attendance to parents and keep rewarding students on their good attendance.

Keywords: *Greenfield, attendance, parent presentation, student presentation, awareness*

Agency Information and Community Served

Oak Avenue Elementary School is in Greenfield, California. The mission of the school is “to promote all students with high levels of academic and personal achievement through a collaborative system of support, guided by passionate, dedicate staff in a safe, nurturing, and culturally responsive environment that fully prepares students for future college and career success” (Greenfield Union School District, 2018). The school provides for kindergarten through sixth grade which they recently kept instead of sending them to the middle school (Educational Data Partnership, 2018).

According to the U.S Census Bureau in 2010 Greenfield had a population of 17, 428. Nineteen percent of the population of Greenfield are children ages five to twelve which is the population Oak Avenue Elementary serves. According to Education Data Partnership (2018) in 2017-2018 there are 784 students enrolled in the school. About 89% of the population identifies as Hispanic or Latino; most of whom work in agricultural jobs and most speak only Spanish. The median age of the population is 25 and most households make about \$47,733 per year. Educational achievement levels in Greenfield are low, with only 13% of the population with a high school diploma and 2.7% who have a bachelor’s degree (U.S Census Bureau, 2010).

The school is a public agency that receives most of their funding from Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). The LCAP funding allocation is based on the demographics of the population attending the school. From attendance; for every child that attends school each day, the school receives additional funding (Greenfield Unified School District, 2018).

My role at Oak Avenue is helping the school counselor with different activities that promote higher education and to be a better human being. Throughout the academic year, the

school promotes different events such as autism awareness month, college and career day and other educational activities.

Project Description

The main point of the project is to provide awareness about the importance of attendance in Oak Avenue Elementary school. The project will consist of a parent presentation about the consequences of their children missing too much school, and a student presentation targeting the those who have poor attendance. By creating a parent power point presentation that includes a definition of attendance and the consequences if their child misses too many days of school will help bring an awareness of the importance of attendance. As for the student presentation by creating an entertaining power point that engages them will help them learn about the importance of attendance, and the consequences of not coming to school. The last step will be interviewing the attendance secretary and the school counselor to see if bringing awareness to attendance will help the school.

Selecting this project was due to the poor attendance that is found in the school. There are about 50 students in the school that is considered to have chronic absenteeism, and in the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) the school is in the orange category which means that they are in the lowest performance in attendance. By implementing the project, it will help the school see if by providing extra awareness about attendance it will help reduce the chronic absenteeism within the school.

The implementation plan will consist of getting the parents to attend the power point presentation attendance. By creating flyers that are sent out to the parents will help attract a crowd to the presentation. A power point presentation will be presented where it talks about the importance of attendance and the consequences when their children miss too much school. There

will be a worksheet that parents can fill out about who can they trust to take their children to school if they cannot take their children to school. The parent presentation was already implemented on February 28 and there were only 13 parents that showed up to the presentation. A pamphlet was made where tips were written for the parents on how to avoid missing school. A worksheet was provided to the parents where it states ways to help their children go to school and who can help them with taking their children to school in emergencies.

As for the student presentation, it will be implemented March 19th which includes at least fifty students who have poor attendance. The presentation consisted of ways the students can get to school without being late, what happens if they miss too much school and the incentive at the end if their attendance improved.

The main help from the administration was from mentor, the school counselor, and the attendance secretary. The attendance secretary provided the school policies and the student list of the ones who have poor attendance. The school allowed me to use the Lego room where there were a screen and a projector where the presentation could be projected to the parents. Also, a classroom will be provided for the student presentation where a projector will be included in the classroom.

Problem Description

The broader social problem is that there are not enough students graduating high school in Greenfield. According to the Census of 2013-2017 only about 47% graduate high school and only 4% have a bachelor's degree. The agency problem is tackling the attendance problem of the school. Due to low attendance rates of school it affects other aspects of the school

By having low attendance rate many students will feel discouraged from attending school due to not knowing how to read or write by the third grade. According to Attendance Works

(2018), students who are considered chronically absent by sixth grade they are most likely to drop out of high school. If the attendance issue is not fixed or something is done their test scores won't increase or their high school graduation rate wouldn't increase.

Problem Model Template

The problem model describes the social problem and the agency problem as explain in the problem description.

Project Title: Oak Avenue Elementary: Attendance Awareness Project		
Problem Statement: The lack of knowledge about the importance of attendance from the parents and students		
CAUSES TO AGENCY PROBLEM	AGENCY-SPECIFIC "MICRO-LEVEL" PROBLEM ADDRESSED BY PROJECT	CONSEQUENCES TO AGENCY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of funding ● No staff for presentations ● Scheduling Conflict ● No materials knowledge about attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tackling the attendance problem of the Oak Avenue Elementary school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fewer students will be attending the school or attendance will drop. ● Funding will decrease for the school.
CAUSES TO BROADER HEALTH PROBLEM	BROADER "MACRO-LEVEL" HEALTH/SOCIAL PROBLEM	CONSEQUENCES TO SOCIETY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Undiagnosed mental health disorder ● Undiagnosed learning disability ● Family problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There are not enough students graduating high school in Greenfield. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Higher dropout rates in schools ● Students fall behind in school ● Fewer students getting their high school diploma

Project Description and Implementation Process

The main purpose of the project was to bring awareness about the importance of attendance not just to the school but for the parents. By asking questions to the attendance secretary helped me develop a plan on how to spread awareness about attendance. Also, by sending a survey to the teachers if they knew anything about how the school is handling attendance. This led me to implement power point presentations on attendance to help spread the importance of attending school every day. The power point presentations targeted the students and parents which included different information for both groups. The parent power point presentation included the school consequences if their child missed too much school and included pointers for parents that could help their child miss less school. The presentations included information from the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) 2017-2018 report where it showed progress of the school attendance compare to the other schools. Also, pamphlets were created to pass out to the parents where included other pointers and consequences of missing too much school.

As for the student presentation it targeted all the students that had poor attendance in the school. The presentation included an educational video where it talked about the consequences of missing too much school and it explained to them what the school rules on attendance are. There were educational posters posted around the school that talk about attendance.

Project assessment Process

The expected outcome of the project was to help the school spread the importance of attendance with their parents and their students. For the parent presentation the assessment measure was achieved by counting how many parents attended the presentation. As for the student presentation the assessment was collected by seeing how much students did not miss any school within three-week time frame.

Findings and Results of Assessment Process

The survey that was sent out to the 26 teachers only 5 teachers return the survey and 3 out of the 5 stated that the school did not prioritize attendance. As for the parent presentation only 16 parents showed up to the 2-session parent presentation. As for the student presentation 19 out of 38 students did not miss any school which is 50% of them. The project did achieve the expected of spreading awareness to the parents and it made the school realize that they need to pay more attention on spreading awareness to the parents and their students about attendance.

The success of my project was seeing the students that attended the presentation come to school every day. The 19 students out of the 38 saw that attending school was important thanks to the presentation and realized that they can get rewarded for attending school every day. The challenges that came from the project was the limitation of time and late reaction from the administration. The administration was late in agreeing in ordering supplies that could have been used for the project and there was short of time on creating more poster.

Recommendation

The recommendation for the agency would be to get their teacher more involved with spreading the importance of attendance. This would also help the school in creating more activities to make school more enjoyable for the students. By continuing in spreading more awareness of the importance of attendance to their parents it will help increase their attendance. Although, the school administration needs to get involve and talk to their teachers in helping spread the importance of attendance.

By the school tackling attendance at the elementary level it will help Greenfield with their low graduation rates. Like research mentions if a student misses too much school from kindergarten to second grade by third grade they will have a difficult time reading and if it

continues by six grade students are more likely to drop out of school (Attendance Matters, 2019). The project helped does few students that were consider having poor attendance understand the importance of attending school every day.

Conclusion

Overall, I hope the school keeps promotion attendance to the students and the parents. I have learned so many things about the importance of attendance and how much it impacts a student when they miss too much school. It also made me realize some plans don't always work out, but change is good when things don't go the plans way. Thankfully I had supporting staff and mentor that helped me achieve the best outcome for my project.

The many things that I got out of my internship was the school system worked and what I can do to help students when they are going through a tough time. For the next CHHS intern enjoy your time with the children and get involve with their many activities that the school offers. By joining the activities, it will help create a deeper connection with the students and the staff.

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Appendix

Scope of Work:

Title: Oak Avenue Elementary: Attendance Awareness Project			
Project description: Implementing awareness of the importance attendance with presentations will decrease absenteeism and attendance will increase.			
Goal: Reduce absences and truancy by 5% at Oak Avenue Elementary			
Primary objective of the project: To help students develop good attendance habits to increase their high school graduation rates and promote higher education.			
Activities		Deliverables	Timeline/deadlines
1	Discuss capstone project ideas with mentor	Final capstone project idea approved	Oct 1, 2018
2	Develop a survey for teachers	Submit draft survey to mentor for review/approval	Oct 15, 2018
3	Compile and analyze teacher survey data	Submit preliminary results to the mentor for review/approval to use data.	Nov 1, 2018
4	Create an interactive presentation promoting attendance	Submit draft PPT to mentor for review for approval	Nov 12, 2018
5	Create visual appealing for students	Submit draft PPT to mentor for review	Nov 12, 2018
6	Complete pamphlet with tips	Final agency and capstone reports	February 3, 2019
7	Parent Presentation	Final approved presentation	February 28, 2019
8	Student presentation	Final presentation approval	March 19, 2019
9	Student Prize	Final approval for rewards	April 9, 2019
10	Mentor interviews	Schedule interview	April 12, 2019
11	Prepare capstone presentation in selected format	Present at Dress Rehearsal for grading (posters submitted)	May 8-10, 2019
12	Final preparation for Capstone Festival	Final presentation at Capstone Festival!!	May 16, 2019

The Importance of Good Attendance

Good Attendance makes a difference! It improves academic performance and promotes future success. Share these reasons to go to school every day.

- ❖ Each lesson that the student misses puts the student behind.
- ❖ Absences can affect other students if the teacher has to reteach the material that was missed
- ❖ In-class activities, such as experiments and demonstrations, usually cannot be made up.
- ❖ Poor attendance leads to lower grades. It also raises the risk of dropping out of school and taking part in criminal behavior.

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La Importancia de la Buena Asistencia

¡La buena asistencia hace una diferencia! Mejora el rendimiento académico y promueve el éxito del estudiante. Comparta estas razones para ir a la escuela todos los días.

- ❖ La lección de cada día se basa en lo aprendido anteriormente. La pérdida de una sola clase puede retrasar al estudiante.
- ❖ Las ausencias pueden afectar a otros estudiantes si el maestro tiene que volver a enseñar las materias de nuevo.
- ❖ Las actividades en clase, como experimentos y demostraciones, por lo general no se pueden repetir.
- ❖ La mala asistencia baja las calificaciones. También aumenta el riesgo de abandonar los estudios y participar en actividades criminales.

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