

The following represent a few ideas I have regarding research I'd like to pursue in the future. These ideas were pursued in the last two courses that comprised my seat work.

In today's educational climate, schools are expected to produce students capable of mastering standards set forth by the federal government and interpreted by each individual state. This is what we commonly refer to as the "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001" (NCLB). With NCLB every child is expected to achieve at or above state levels by the year 2014. After reading selected literature, I'd like to concentrate on (X#) of elementary schools with after-school programs. The selected literature did not give a definitive answer in regards to the effect of after-school programs on learning in elementary schools. In fact, very little was found that is specific to elementary schools. The literature located at this time primarily focuses on middle and high schools. It is my intent to attempt to use material based on these findings to assess the effect of after-school programs on the academic performance of elementary students. The study would be a mixed study using both qualitative and quantitative methods. A pre and post assessment will be given to each participating student. Teachers and administrators will also be interviewed. In the end an analogy will be drawn as to the effectiveness of after-school programs on academic success.

Research

This part contains the research used to provide a background for the work to determine if after-school programs influence academic achievement in students that attend them. It also contains the methods used in analyzing the data used in the study of after-school programs and their affect on academic performance on elementary children.

One widely accepted hypothesis is that time on task is of the essence in helping students achieve. Very simply stated, if enough time is spent on any objective, mastery will occur. With this hypothesis, one needs to basically work longer and learning will take place. Some of the literature, however, suggests that this may not be the case. There may be a saturation point where extra time is simply a waste and has no educational value in regards to aiding student achievement.

The research I hope to propose will concentrate completely on the role that schools play in helping students meet NCLB and successfully navigate the established priorities. It is my desire to specifically deal only with the students who attend an after-school program and explore its influence on academic achievement.

My thinking is that this study would use a mixed method of assessment that is both Qualitative and Quantitative.

References

Hopefully I'll be afforded the opportunity to research and develop this topic.