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Original Publication Citation
Hawaii International Conference on Education, Honolulu, HI. (January 21)

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
Anderson, Darlene; Christensen, Lynnette; Caldarella, Paul; and Young, K. Richard, "Encouraging School Planner Use to Improve the Academic Performance of Secondary Students" (2010). All Faculty Publications. 19.
https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/facpub/19

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Encouraging School Planner Use to Improve the Academic Performance of Secondary Students

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Abstract

Previous research has suggested that planner use can improve homework completion for students who fail to turn in their assignments.

The study’s first phase examined the effects of planner use and materials organization on the grades of 7th and 8th grade students in student advisory classes.

The second phase investigated the effects of planner use and a peer-mediated self-management procedure on the grades of low-achieving students enrolled in a 9th grade algebra class.

Current results suggest that students who are capable but low-achieving may simply lack the organizational skills to turn assignments in on time.

Research Aim

To improve students’ time management, homework completion, and academic grades as a result of using the planner and applying organizational skills.

Participants & Setting

Phase One

Classwide Intervention - Forty-two 7th or 8th grade students in 3 advisory classrooms; approximately 20 students participating from each class.

Individualized Intervention - Two students in each advisory classroom received intensive intervention including 1:1 adult support and behavior contracting at least two times per week.

Phase Two

Three Caucasian males in 8th or 9th grade, capable of doing the work but receiving D’s and F’s in math class.

Selected for participation by their teacher.

School

Located in rural community of approximately 12,000 residents.

Low SES - 40%

ELL - 5%

Caucasian - 85%

Hispanic - 11%

Other - 4%

Results & Discussion

Phase One

The Classwide Intervention didn’t appear to help students over the long term, but may have prevented a decline in performance.

Low-achieving students who received the Individualized Intervention experienced improved outcomes.

Phase Two

Differences in the on-task behavior of the two students were less noticeable following intervention.

Data Sources

Phase One

Periodic Access to Academic Grades

Written Narratives

Phase Two

Self-Management Card

Daily Access to Teacher’s Grade Book Retrieved Online

Student Assignments

School Planner

Teacher’s Behavior Ratings

Contact Information

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