

APPENDIX A

TCDSB External Research Applications: Approved in 2016-2017

1. *The use of facilitated group activity to support school readiness skills in preschool children with hearing loss.*

- **Purpose:** Studies identifying challenges in speech, language and pre-literacy development of children with hearing loss have demonstrated the benefits of music and group activities. This research investigates the impact of combining group activities including music, movement and crafts into traditional listening and spoken language therapy on skill development in preschool children with hearing loss, particularly in the areas of language, pre-literacy, social interactions and self-regulation.
- **Method:** Assessments of students in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program and questionnaires completed by teachers and parents.

2. *ezClass Test Beta Testing – Grades 3 and 6 Ontario Mathematics*

- **Purpose:** The ezClass Test is a new online curriculum-based diagnostic mathematics assessment for students in Grades 3 and 6. Teachers can access the online system using any computer or tablet and create tests specific to the curriculum topics they are teaching at the time. They have the option of administering it to groups of students as needed. Tests are scored automatically and reports sent to the teacher. The purpose of the research is to learn about the principal, teacher, and student user experience when using the ezClass Test online assessment system and to analyze the technical quality of the Grade 3 and Grade 6 mathematics test questions.
- **Method:** Online teacher and principal questionnaires.

3. *Addressing the Numeracy Gap: A solution to increase student engagement and achievement in mathematics*

- **Purpose:** Numeracy is an area of weakness for many Canadian students in all levels of education and has become an area of focus for Ontario. The Ontario College Math Test (OCMT), founded on 12 years of research, is a tool that aligns with the Ministry goals of improving achievement in mathematics. Through the provision of pre- and post-diagnostic assessments and a suite of digitally rich, online remedial modules, students who use the OCMT have access to individualized feedback on their math skills to address areas of weakness. The same individualized assessment feedback is available to their teachers to inform instruction and to address the numeracy gap. The goal of the research is to learn about the impact of participation on teachers and students. This research is part of a \$250,000

grant from the Ontario Centres of Excellence, Advancing Education Programme, for the partnership between Humber College, TCDSB, and Vretta.

- **Method:** Pre- and post-surveys completed online by participating Grade 9 students; Grade 9 mathematics achievement scores.

4. *The 2017 Ontario Student Drug use and Health Survey (OSDUHS)*

- **Purpose:** The OSDUHS began in 1977. It monitors drug use, mental health, physical health, gambling, bullying and risk behaviours among Ontario students in Grades 7 to 12, every two years. The repeated design allows researchers to track change over time. The main purpose is to provide a knowledge-base for health promotion, education, and policy efforts at all levels of government with the ultimate goal of improving the well-being of young people.

- **Method:** Students in Grades 7 to 12 are surveyed within a stratified sample representative of Ontario.

5. *Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey (formerly Youth Smoking Survey)*

- **Purpose:** Understanding Canadian trends in tobacco, alcohol and drug use is vital to the effective development, implementation and evaluation of strategies, policies and programs aimed at addressing substance use and abuse. It is important to regularly monitor health behaviour to judge the effectiveness of programs aimed at reducing substance use and regulating tobacco products, alcohol and illicit drugs. The Canadian Student Tobacco and Drugs Survey is conducted every second year and includes questions related to tobacco use, purchasing behaviour, and tobacco marketing and drug and alcohol use.

- **Method:** Surveys of samples of students from Grade 7 to 12 in schools representative of Canada.

6. *An Evaluation of the Policy/Protocol Memorandum No.158 to Require Concussion Education in Ontario Schools*

- **Purpose:** Recent evidence suggests that concussions are becoming more common, especially among school-aged children. In March 2014, the Ministry of Education of Ontario issued a Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) No.158 that requires school boards to create a concussion education and prevention policy. The main objective of the study is to evaluate the effectiveness of the PPM by analyzing the concussion prevention policies across the different school boards in Ontario and to conduct a pre-policy, post-policy implementation analysis of Ontario School Board Insurance Exchange incident data.

- **Method:** Questionnaires for one staff member regarding the concussion policy and a small sample of teachers from each Board.

7. *Optimizing Mothers' Milk for Preterm Infants (OptiMoM) Program of Research: Study 1-Impact of Donor Milk at Kindergarten*

- **Purpose:** In Canada, the leading cause of long-term disability in children is being born at very low birth weight (VLBW). A key goal of improving the early nutrition of VLBW infants is to improve their long-term neurodevelopment, especially at school age. Mother's own breastmilk is the optimal way to feed VLBW infant; however, many need a supplement of donor milk or preterm formula as not enough mother's own milk is available. The purpose of this research is to follow up on the development of VLBW infants who in hospital were fed donor milk or preterm formula and/or mother's own milk, and it is part of a large longitudinal study.
- **Method:** Cognitive, motor, language and brain development is assessed at the hospital; a measure of school readiness is obtained through the Early Development Instrument (EDI) completed by teachers.

8. *Third Progress Report on the implementation of the First Nations, Metis and Inuit Education Policy Framework*

- **Purpose:** In 2007, the Ministry of Education released the Ontario First Nation, Metis and Inuit Education Policy Framework. The Framework is the foundation for delivering quality education to all First Nation, Metis, and Inuit students attending provincially funded schools in Ontario. The ministry has committed to releasing a progress report on the implementation of the Framework every three years. The purpose of this research is to learn more about the unique and diverse needs of Indigenous students to support more responsive and effective education policy and to inform the Third Progress Report.
- **Method:** Online survey for members of school communities, focus groups with Indigenous and non-Indigenous students and with staff.

9. *SHINE: Students Helping to Inspire New Education*

- **Purpose:** Transitioning from high school to university can be a very stressful and difficult process. These struggles are amplified when the students in question are diagnosed with or may self-identify as having an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The purpose of Students Helping to Inspire New Education (SHINE) is to create a space in which students with ASD can explore questions around transitioning by collaborating to create an online animation video with the purpose of sharing it with other students, families and service providers interested in the topic. The goal of the research is to learn about students' concerns and questions regarding

transitioning to high school education and how participation in the program can benefit specific skills development.

- **Method:** Questionnaires completed by students at the beginning and at the end of the program.

10. *Suspension and Expulsion Program Evaluation*

- **Purpose:** A number of initiatives are in place in Ontario to support the achievement of all students. One such initiative is the provincial suspension and expulsion program. The Ministry of Education is supporting an evaluation of the program to be conducted in two phases to assess the impact on outcomes for students and identify promising practices and alternatives to suspensions and expulsions.
- **Method:** Surveys and interviews with professionals in the field and document analysis.

11. *The efficacy of one school-based intervention (ACT & ADAPT) and two prevention programs (SNAP for School and Start Right Social Skills)*

- **Purpose:** ACT & ADAPT is an intervention program for students with depressive symptoms; SNAP is a program for classrooms focussed on reducing disruptions in the classroom and increasing self-control/positive social interactions; Start Right Social Skills (SRSS) is a program for children in kindergarten who are having difficulty adjusting to the everyday demands of their regular classroom. The purpose of the research is to study the efficacy of these interventions.
- **Method:** Questionnaires completed by students, teachers and parents before and after the program.

12. *High School Student Surveys and Administrator surveys*

- **Purpose:** The Toronto Police Service measures the effectiveness of its service to the public to gauge the success in achieving priorities they have set for the service. As schools within Toronto are a valuable and vital part of the community, surveys are sent to schools to learn about the perceptions of students and staff regarding their interaction and involvement with the service.
- **Method:** Surveys of principals and students from high schools in Toronto.