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Hello partnership members,

Welcome to our first newsletter! We are very excited to announce our Attendance SSHRC Partnership newsletter. Each month, you will receive a newsletter that summarizes interesting research and current events related to attendance, highlights an important contribution of one of our partners, and offers relevant resources to take with you.

Thank you for your interest and participation as we foster our partnership aimed at better understanding school attendance.

-Jess Whitley, Project Lead @ uOttawa

Project Updates

We have met as partners twice this fall, October 15th and November 18th. Your varying perspectives on how best to understand and ask about attendance has been invaluable.

We continue to work on the interview guides, based on your feedback and expertise thus far. We are also conducting a scan to see how/when agencies are collecting data related to school attendance and participation.

Headlines and Research

More than 300 Ontario schools have reported absence rates of 30% or higher but won't say if these are a direct result of COVID-19; parents say that's unacceptable. Click the link to learn more:

<https://globalnews.ca/news/8533553/ontario-school-data-absences-covid-omicron/>

perspectives into a single integrative framework so it can be properly addressed. Click the link to read the article.

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.02222/full>

Partner Spotlight

Written by some of our own researchers and partners, the shift to virtual learning has provided an important opportunity to engage students in creative ways. These strategies can teach us lessons for how to engage students moving forward. Check out the link below to read more:

<https://cpa.ca/docs/File/Psynopsis/2021-Vol43-3/index.html#p=12>

Resources

This *Attendance Works* toolkit is filled with materials and activities that you can use to spark conversations with families about promoting good school attendance habits - click here!

<https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/toolkits/bringing-attendance-home/>

Where You Are, a podcast created by BC Children's Kelty Mental Health Resource Center, features a 2-part series highlighting several of the challenges children and youth face attending school, as well as strategies for parents and caregivers navigating such challenges. To listen to part one, click here: [Apple](#) ; [Spotify](#).

What's Next?

We are planning for another meeting in March 2022 with all the partners. For now, we are looking forward to continuing our scan to see how and when agencies are collecting data around school attendance and participation. Thank you so much to those of you who have already shared this information with us! We will be reaching out in coming weeks to all partner organizations to complete this work. We will then organize and share our findings with the group.

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