

Consideration of a System for the Support for Truant Students

— From a Questionnaire Investigation at Town A in Northern Kyoto Prefecture —

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This study's aim is to understand the problems that school systems face when combating truancy, along with ways of dealing with this.

In this study, elementary and middle school teachers in northern Kyoto Prefecture's Town A completed two questionnaires. The results show that it is possible to understand the current systems and the possibly implementable systems in the future, and that creating an effective support system is a big problem. One weakness of Town A's current systems is a tendency for individual teachers to not be well connected to other teaching staff. An awareness of the necessity for connection is the first major step in truancy alleviation. Improved communication will also allow for an increase in the understanding of truancy. The questionnaires show that having strong understandings between homes, schools, and specialist organizations helps to alleviate early-stage truancy. Communication enhancement could henceforth become a major issue. Thus, in order to combat truancy, information should be shared with all related parties.

Based on the aforementioned problem, Town A has suggested two possible truancy measures. The first is the cooperation of kindergartens and elementary and middle schools by holding regular meetings to further understand the issue of truancy. In doing so, a well-connected lateral and vertical network is creatable. The second is to adopt the inclusive support system being used at Omi Brotherhood Senior High School, Omihachiman City, Shiga Prefecture. With the cooperation of university volunteers, school counselors, and social workers, even without complete implementation, it is thought that the truancy situation in Town A can be changed. Even with a small amount of effort, an improvement in the situation of affected children is possible. If Town A can link the efforts of its education staff, families, and organizations, taking the next step toward the further alleviation of truancy is possible.