



# Rethinking Cooperation and Co-Ownership: MEP's Approach to Middle School Attendance

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# District response to K-3 report

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## Understanding Surprising Research Findings on School Attendance

By Urban Education Contributor on October 4, 2018 6:00 AM | No comments

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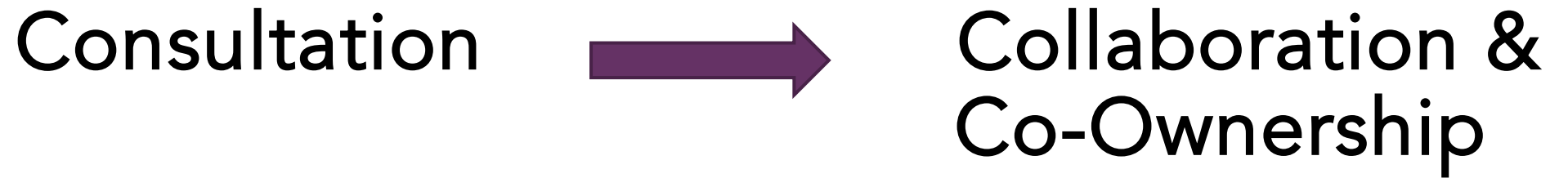
This post is by Beth Vaade, [Madison Education Partnership \(@MEP\\_WCER\)](#) Co-Director and [Madison Metropolitan School District \(@MMSDschoools\)](#) Innovation Project Manager.

“From the practice side, the report was a **bit of a clunker**. Upon initial release, staff **struggled to make sense of the work** and understand what the report was telling the district. Once we crossed that bridge, the general impression became that **the work was interesting, but not actionable**. Our district already had attendance work underway, with a team of people in Central Office dedicated to the work.”



# Our New Process: Co-Ownership

## Integration of a Design Team



- Cross-functional team within MMSSD
- Develop and refine research questions; inform research design
- Goal is to identify actionable policy and practice implications



# Attendance in Grades 6-8

## Research Questions

1. How are student perceptions of **school climate** related to school attendance?
2. To what extent do **attendance patterns** in grades 6-9 simply reflect attendance patterns in elementary school? What predicts which students experience increases in attendance and which students experience declines in attendance in middle school?
3. What are the **racial/ethnic and economic disparities** in patterns of attendance in 6th - 9th grade? How are they related to academic achievement?
4. Do the data we have **accurately reflect** student attendance rates?

# Study Results





# Co-ownership in the Future

1. Potential for **Community-Development Teams**
2. **Engage** with implementation science research
3. Consider a four stage process of
  - **Exploration**
  - **Adoption/preparation**
  - **Active implementation**
  - **Sustainability**





# Time to talk





# What does school attendance mean for equitable educational outcomes?

Individually brainstorm for 3 minutes

- *Blue post-its: What **questions do you have** about the attendance research?*
- *Pink post-its: Moving forward, where can MEP join research and practice to increase educational equity in Madison? What **potential problems of practice** could we take on?*
- Record your ideas (one per post-it)

Turn & talk with a partner

- keep recording your great ideas on post-its!

Let's discuss together





# Thank You!



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