

Table of Contents

<u>Chapter 1 Introduction</u>	1
Background of the Problem	1
Purpose of the Study	3
Rationale for the Study	3
Research Questions	4
Significance of the Study	5
Definition of Terms	6
Delimitations	8
Organization of the Study	9
<u>Chapter 2 Review of Related Literature</u>	10
Introduction	10
Historical Overview	10
Importance of Attendance	12
Overview of Newport News Public Schools	20
Theoretical Framework	25
Causes or Predictors of Student Absenteeism	28
Description of Related Attendance Policies and Programs	30
Perceptions/Attitudes of Attendance Summary	33
Summary	34

<u>Chapter 3 Methodology</u>	36
Introduction	36
Subject	36
Instrumentation	38
Reliability/Validity	39
Data Collections Procedures	39
Statistical Analyses	42
ANCOVA	42
Null Hypotheses	43
Descriptive Report	44
Chi-square Test	44
Summary	45
<u>Chapter 4 Results</u>	46
Introduction	46
Research Questions	46
Descriptive Analysis	48
Attendance Survey	57
Chi-square Analysis	73
Summary	76
<u>Chapter 5 Summary, Conclusions, Recommendations, and Implication For Further Research</u>	79
Summary of the Study	79

Conclusions	81
Recommendations	84
Implications for Further Study	85
References	87

Appendices:

Appendix A: Student Attendance Policy	90
Appendix B: Saturday Redemptive School	96
Appendix C: Time Sequence of School Board Agenda Items	104
Appendix D: Survey Instruments	106
Appendix E: Validation of Survey Content	107
Appendix F: Application for research Authorization	112
Appendix G: Research Project Authorization	116
Appendix H: Principal Request Letter	118
Appendix I: Survey Cover Letters	120
Vita	137

List of Tables

Tables	Page
1 Characteristics of Sample: Grade and Gender	48
2 Characteristics of Sample: Grade by Gender	49
3 Average Attendance Across All Grades	50
4 Total Average Attendance Across All Grade Levels	51
5 Total Attendance for 1996-1997 by Grade Level and Gender with 1995-1996 Total Attendance as a Covariate	53
6 Analysis of Covariance Source Table for Attendance ..	54
7 Scheffe Post Hoc Test Results by Grade	56
8 Total Survey Sample by Group	58
9 Total Surveys Issued/Returned	59
10 Overall Descriptive Frequencies for Students, Parent, Teacher Survey	63
11 Continuation of Overall Descriptive Frequencies for Student, Parent, Teacher Survey	64
12 Overall Student Survey Responses	66
13 Continuation of Overall Student Survey Responses	67
14 Overall Parent Survey	69
15 Continuation of Overall Parent Survey	70
16 Overall Teacher Survey	72
17 Continuation of Overall Teacher Survey	73
18 Descriptive Analysis of Total Student Sample	74

19	Descriptive Analysis of Total Student Pass or Fail Rating	74
20	Total Pass or fail by Gender	75
21	Chi-square Test Results for SRS Participants	76