

Mendez - School Psychology

Abstract: Hispanic/Latinx Perspectives of School Connectedness

School connectedness is a documented protective factor that encourages positive outcomes in both education (such as school completion) and health (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009). Scholarship on school connectedness shows that students' perception of connection (positive school environment and relationships) has substantial implications for their academic performance, motivation, and academic self-efficacy (Niehaus et al., 2012). However, Hispanic/Latinx students' completion rate of high school has consistently been lower than White-non-Hispanic peers, and Black-non-Hispanic peers throughout the last decade. Furthermore, the concept of School Connectedness is typically studied as a part of School Climate, this is problematic since scholarship indicates that Black and Hispanic students have less favorable experiences of safety, connectedness, and relationships with adults that are not captured in School Climate Surveys. The purpose of this qualitative study is to learn more about Hispanic/Latinx student experiences/student perspectives regarding school connectedness, explicitly understanding the following research questions: 1) How is school connectedness experienced by Hispanic/Latinx students? 2) If and how does school connectedness influence Hispanic/Latinx persistence to positive outcomes (ie. complete high school, continue to higher education, post high school plans and wellness)? This study seeks to conduct 60-minute interviews through zoom. Participants will include 12-15 Hispanic/Latinx-identifying 18-year-old to 21-year-old students who recently graduated high school. The results of the interviews will be analyzed using a Consensual Qualitative Research (CQR) approach. This is an in-depth examination of individual experiences through identifying themes presented by the interview data. This study will contribute to the literature by providing insight into an experience that is not usually captured in typical school connectedness literature. Specifically, this study will examine the factors that encouraged or hindered Latinx/Hispanic students' school connectedness, and the outcomes experienced by Latinx/Hispanic students.

Undergraduate Work: Understand the study, review literature, and Methodology. Understand the role of the Researcher in Qualitative studies. Prioritize Memos throughout Research Process. Support creation of IRB Material (Recruitment Flyer, Confidentiality, Qualtrics Demographic Survey). Learn IRB process. Facilitate Scheduling and Consent. Transcribe Interview Data. Engage in Consensual Qualitative Research (CQR) Analyzation Learn Consensual Qualitative Research (CQR) methods. Analyze data for themes with graduate researcher.