

# **The Application of Selected Quality School Attributes to Improve Student Achievement and Interest**

## **Abstract**

In this study, some selected attributes of William Glasser's Quality School were implemented in a Psychology 11 class at W. J. Mouat Secondary, in Abbotsford, BC, Canada to investigate whether student achievement and interest would improve as a result. The attributes selected for the purposes of the study included: conducting class meetings; allowing students to participate in setting classroom rules, procedures, and evaluation; using a student-centred and project-based approach in the classroom; and incorporating student self-assessment. Assessment data was collected prior to the implementation of Glasser's strategies and again at the conclusion of the unit. A *t*-test analysis of the data showed a highly significant improvement in student achievement, as a result of the modifications to classroom procedures, instruction, and evaluation. A pre- and post-survey, using a ranking scale of one to five, and subjected to an overall *t*-test analysis, also showed a significant improvement in student attitudes and interest toward the class. However, when responses were separated into five categories, *t*-test analysis found significant results in only three of the five areas: classroom environment, course content, and discipline. Results for the categories of marks and evaluation and relationship with the teacher were not found to be significant in this study. A secondary focus of the study explored the use of Glasser's strategies in other classrooms at W. J. Mouat Secondary, and results indicated that a number of Glasser's recommendations were being used by the teachers who participated in the survey. This study supports the implementation of selected Quality School attributes, with the results indicating that

allowing students a greater role in setting classroom procedures and evaluation, and using a student-centred and project-based approach, can lead to improvement in student achievement and interest.