Teacher Absenteeism Post-COVID-19

Dr. Alisa Bledsoe Wilson

University of Tennessee at Martin, The United States

Abstract

The purpose of this qualitative study was to share the perspectives of K-12 teachers with more than 5 years experience on the phenomenon of teacher absenteeism post COVID-19 in rural school districts. The author chose to continue researching teacher absenteeism after the surprising results of the pre-COVID-19 study, "The relationship between teacher absenteeism and student achievement" which was based on quantitative and qualitative data from 2019. After the ease of teaching from home, the author wondered how teachers felt about being absent from their classrooms once schools reopened and attempted to return to school as usual. There were only five questions asked of the participants using the Qualtrics application. All answers were anonymously submitted and analyzed for common themes and suggestions for the local school districts. The results of this study were surprising and reassuring that teachers are committed to their profession.

Keywords: teacher absenteeism, COVID-19, qualitative study, rural school districts