

Promoting ownership in pre-vocational education

Period: 2020-2022

Funded by: A school for secondary education

Researchers: Dr. M. Hendrickx

Abstract:

At a school for secondary education (pre-vocational track; VMBO), students' ownership regarding their own learning process is a central construct. The school aims to enlarge ownership, by installing a so-called "flex-hour", which takes place four out of five days. During this lesson, students themselves choose the subject they would like to work on, and the learning goals they have for the particular lesson. Subject teachers are present to help them in their learning process.

The current research project focuses on teachers' and students' experiences with these flex hours, on the amount of autonomy students show and the amount teachers provide for students. The project combines questionnaire data, interview data, and observational data to reach a complete picture. The meta-cognitive learning activities to be regulated by students, by teachers or by both is evaluated at three measurement moments, in fall/winter 2020, fall/winter 2021, and fall/winter 2022. In the final year, effects of students' choices on their results are evaluated.