

# Leadership Practices and Teacher Morale in Missouri Charter Schools

Secondary Education

Teachers

**TITLE** Leadership Practices and Teacher Morale in Missouri Charter Schools

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## OBJECTIVE

This quantitative study examined correlations between leadership practices and teacher morale in Missouri charter schools. This study sought to answer the following research questions: Is there a significant difference in leadership practices among Missouri charter schools? Is there a significant difference in teacher morale when comparing Missouri charter schools? Are leadership practices and teacher morale correlated in Missouri charter schools?

## METHODOLOGY

To answer these questions, 94 teachers from five Missouri charter schools completed two surveys. The Leadership Practices Inventory (LPI 360) survey measured the leadership practices used by the principals. The Purdue Teacher Opinionnaire (PTO) Saka (2018) survey measured teachers' morale.

## KEY FINDINGS

Then, using the data collected, ANOVA and Pearson Correlation tests were run to compare the means and look for correlations between the two surveys. There are three key findings of the present research. First, the data showed no consensus on the leadership practices used by principals and presented significant differences in usage frequencies. Second, the results demonstrated no uniformity in teacher morale among the schools. Lastly, the main finding of this study was a strong positive correlation between leadership practices and teacher morale. In other words, the more principals used the leadership practices from the LPI 360 survey, the higher the morale of their teachers was. Other researchers could do this study on a larger scale with charter school teachers from different states or with traditional public schools.