



Attendance

INSA
International Network
for School Attendance

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

2026 INSA Conference
On Course for Attendance!

Hotel Alicante Golf, Spain
September 30 – October 2, 2026

REGISTRATION & RECEPTION DESK

Open from 08:00 for credential and conference materials collection

ALBATROS ROOM (PLENARY)

MORNING WELCOME AND CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

KEYNOTE SAMO VARSIK

Every day counts: Understanding, preventing and responding to school attendance problems

ROOM CHANGE

SYMPOSIUM

It takes a school culture to raise attendance
Coordinators: David Heyne & Chaja Deen

BIRDIE ROOM

ROOM CHANGE

ORAL PRESENTATIONS - Families & school refusal

- Parent support center – Parents of children and young people experiencing school absenteeism
Ulrika Gidlund & Lena Ivarsson
- The unseen journey: mothers navigating school refusal for mixed-roots children in Japan
Catherine Takasugi
- The winning Trio around child suffering school refusal (SR): the experience seen by the parents
Marie-Christine Combes Mäkinen

EAGLE 1 ROOM

ROOM CHANGE

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Emerging scholars committee: moving the field of school attendance forward
Amy Meade, Katharine Chadbourn, Isabella Sasso, Chiara Enderle, Lara Bokelmann & María Pérez-Marco

EAGLE 3 ROOM

ROOM CHANGE

ORAL PRESENTATIONS - Beyond compliance

- From enforcement to encounter: A systemic reframing of school attendance
Ramona Meza
- Beyond compliance: Reframing school attendance through co-produced, systems-level [...] Andrea Carrick, Lucy Barker, David Littlefair & Reinie Cordier
- Beyond compliance: Supporting autonomy and participation in school engagement for young [...] Tara Ciric & Catriona O'Toole

COFFEE BREAK

ORAL PRESENTATIONS - Early Intervention & Re-engagement

- Coping@School: A preventive, school-based CBT group approach for early school attendance [...] Kristin Martinsen, Lise Sæhle, Ingvild Bugjerde Bagge & Gudrun Abel Engh
- Child Participation as a Key to Reintegrating Isolated Children into School
Charlotte Just Bukh
- STAY: A new stepped care intervention to increase attendance of students with emotionally [...] Rose Iovannone, Shannon Suldo, Alison Salloum, Rachel Giovagnoli & Kim Crosland



WORKSHOP - Part I

From Intervention to Integration: Embedding Attendance Practices in School Culture
Coordinators: David Heyne & Chaja Deen

ORAL PRESENTATIONS - Dropout & Attendance

- From dropout to attendance: Using dropout typologies to inform targeted attendance [...] Irene Eggeman
- Being heard or being blamed? Marginalized perspectives of young people and families facing [...] Lara Bokelmann
- Reasons for school dropout among students in Turkey: A systematic review
Yurdagül Doğuş



SYMPOSIUM

SOS-Attendance Observatory: A European initiative to understand and address school attendance problems
Coordinator: Carolina González

ROOM CHANGE

ROOM CHANGE

ROOM CHANGE

ROOM CHANGE

ORAL PRESENTATIONS - Prevention & Student Wellbeing

- Universal Tier 1 student support: Using the Youth Wellness Action Plan and online training [...] Sheryl Boswell
- The caring conversation: Early interprofessional collaboration to promote school attendance
Eva Pennegård
- A systemic perspective on preventing absence in school communities – students' [...] Teea Laiho, Jenni Helenius, Tuomo Virtanen, Tiina Annevirta & Niina Junttila



WORKSHOP - Part II

From Intervention to Integration: Embedding Attendance Practices in School Culture
Coordinators: David Heyne & Chaja Deen



ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

From global perspectives of student voice to local action in attendance
Johanna Taylor



SYMPOSIUM

Understanding school non-attendance among students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND): The scale of the problem, mechanisms, and evidence for intervention
Coordinators: Vanessa Cieplinska, Olivia Smith & Lauren Cameron

LUNCH



SYMPOSIUM

The Back 2 School intervention and results from the Norwegian pilot study
Coordinator: Frode Adolfsen



WORKSHOP - Part I

NONNA: From international experiences to local action How can the NONNA framework support the development of national school attendance networks?
Coordinators: Carolina Soto-Urbe & Marije Brouwer



ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Take a look through my eyes
Nils Aukema & Pien De Jonge

ORAL PRESENTATIONS - Autism & School Attendance

- Neurodivergent pupils' experiences of school distress and attendance difficulties: A mixed [...] Chloe Fielding, Deborah Riby & Mary Hanley
- Understanding and co-creating safe spaces in schools: A participatory study with autistic students
Melika Ahmetovic & Isabella Sasso
- When school participation becomes fragile: Understanding autistic students' educational [...] Melika Ahmetovic

ROOM CHANGE

ROOM CHANGE

ROOM CHANGE

ROOM CHANGE



SYMPOSIUM

Optimization of the Back 2 School intervention and establishing a RCT in Norway
Coordinator: Jo Magne Ingul



WORKSHOP - Part II

NONNA: From international experiences to local action How can the NONNA framework support the development of national school attendance networks?
Coordinators: Carolina Soto-Urbe & Marije Brouwer



ORAL PRESENTATIONS - School Experiences & Attendance

- Beyond individual misconduct: A multilevel analysis of school attendance problems and the [...] Marie-Christine Vierbuchen, Christine Sälzer, Andreas Just, Chiara Enderle, Florian Koch & Stefan Kolke
- Variation across system levels: School absence through a bioecological lens
Johanna Sergejeff
- Mapping the psychological pathways among school experiences, perfectionism, anxiety, and [...] Sümeyye Ulaş & İsmail Seğer

ORAL PRESENTATIONS - Inclusion & Attendance

- Addressing school absenteeism through resource schools: Organization, practices, and goals
Lena Ivarsson & Ulrika Gidlund
- Beyond absence: Disability and school attendance problems in a system-level analysis of school [...] Melanie Francisus & Matthew White
- One size doesn't fit all: Contextualising multi-tiered systems of support for real world attendance [...] Lisa McKay-Brown, Glenn Melvin, Nadine Rissik & Alexander Dawson

COFFEE BREAK

INSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Access the complete collection of conference submissions and explore all the presentations, symposia, workshops and contributions.

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ALBATROS ROOM (PLENARY)

BIRDIE ROOM

EAGLE 1 ROOM

EAGLE 3 ROOM

DAY 2: HIGHLIGHTS AND WHAT'S AHEAD



SYMPOSIUM

*Supporting parents of children with school attendance problems:
From intervention models to clinical tools and supports*
Coordinator: Marie Gallé-Tessonneau



ROOM CHANGE



KEYNOTE TAMSIN FORD

Mental Health and attendance at school



SYMPOSIUM

*What can we learn from parents? - Narrative approaches to
support school attendance*
Coordinator: Petra Vesuri



ROOM CHANGE



ORAL PRESENTATIONS - School-Wide Attendance Improvement

- Get a grip on attendance
Inge Verstraete & Marije de Wit
- On course for attendance: How schools and school organizers steer their work
Aggie Ohman
- An approach to improve school attendance in Amsterdam - The Netherlands
Tessa Kras & Marleen van der Wolde



WORKSHOP - Part I

*Shifting from stress to empowerment: Providing space for student
voices in shaping the course for attendance*
Coordinator: Chiara Enderle



ROOM CHANGE



WORKSHOP - Part II

*Shifting from stress to empowerment: Providing space for student
voices in shaping the course for attendance*
Coordinator: Chiara Enderle



ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Bridging the gap: Elevating Tier 2 in multi-tiered attendance frameworks
Lisa McKay-Brown & Johanna Taylor



ROOM CHANGE



ORAL PRESENTATIONS - Building Attendance Systems

- From fragmentation to framework: Co-developing a quality standard for school attendance [...]
Jess Whitley, Natasha McBrearty, Erin Fitzgerald, Maria Rogers & David Smith
- From public awareness to national action: Establishing a knowledge centre on school [...]
Anne Vestergaard Jensen
- Cooperation between different welfare services for children and youth in cases of long-term [...]
Ingrid Fylling



ROOM CHANGE



ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

*International comparative studies on school attendance - How useful
are they?*
Susanne Kreitz



ROOM CHANGE



ORAL PRESENTATIONS - Patterns, Thresholds & Attendance

- Beyond the 10% threshold: A latent profile analysis of attendance heterogeneity and behavioral [...]
Andrea Vargová
- The effects of basic education students' absences and the support provided for them on schooling
Kati Vasalampi
- Thresholds where school absences harm learning
Tuomo Virtanen



ROOM CHANGE



SYMPOSIUM

*No one left outside: Reaching young people and families the system
struggles to hold*
Coordinator: Thompson Hokianga



LUNCH + BOARD GAMES



WORKSHOP - Part I

*From enforcement to encounter: A systemic perspective on school
attendance. Exploring real attendance dilemmas through practice-
based learning*
Coordinator: Ramona Meza



ROOM CHANGE



ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

*Ongoing impacts of colonisation on student attendance - How we are
staying on track!*
Thompson Hokianga & Melanie Taite



ROOM CHANGE



SYMPOSIUM

*Navigating the shift to attendance: Comparative lessons from new
legislation in England, Finland, and the Netherlands*
Coordinators: Irma de Wit, Victoria Franklin & Johanna Sergejeff



ROOM CHANGE



ORAL PRESENTATIONS - Lived Experiences of School Avoidance

- Navigating the challenges, the rising tide of school avoidance: Educator perspectives
Martha Brady
- The empty desk in the classroom - consequences of absenteeism, a qualitative study highlighting [...]
Sara Krogstad Brattgjerd
- Findings on school attendance in the context of vocational schools
Christine Sälzer & Anna Hasler



WORKSHOP - Part II

*From enforcement to encounter: A systemic perspective on school
attendance. Exploring real attendance dilemmas through practice-
based learning*
Coordinator: Ramona Meza



SYMPOSIUM

*When the pursuit of perfection leads to school refusal: Exploring the
relationship between perfectionism and school attendance problems*
Coordinator: María Vicent

ORAL PRESENTATIONS - Attendance Policy & Language

- Development of a national evidence-based guideline for school attendance problems in Norway
Anette Schjerpén Hoel & Mari Wilken Frengstad
- A change in posture from the New Zealand Ministry of Education - attendance interventions
Melanie Taite
- Words matter! Words and definitions in Dutch education policy and education legislation in [...]
Henrie Mastwijk & Marga de Weerd



COFFEE BREAK



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ALBATROS ROOM (PLENARY)

CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS AND PREVIEW

KEYNOTE AARON LYON

Implementation of science and human-centered design: Methods to improve intervention uptake in schools

ROOM CHANGE

ORAL PRESENTATIONS - Student Voice & Belonging

- *Building bridges: A salutogenic approach to enhancing school connectedness for absent [...]*
Eva Pennegård, Linda Lemheden, Charlotte Nekander & Maria Karlsson
- *The silent strain: A case study examining the disrupted maternal attachment in school avoidance*
Monica Mandell
- *The struggle for belonging: Everyday life experiences of "absent" children*
Lydia Nystad

BIRDIE ROOM

ROOM CHANGE

WORKSHOP - Part I

The glue people: Who are they and what's their role in fostering school attendance?

Coordinator: Yali Horta Hurtado

EAGLE 1 ROOM

ROOM CHANGE

SYMPOSIUM



Embedding youth voice in school attendance policy: A European perspective

Coordinators: Melchior Wammes & Mathias Vinsten Munk

EAGLE 3 ROOM

ROOM CHANGE

ORAL PRESENTATIONS - Best practice and successful interventions

- *Escape room as a tool to promote interest and enthusiasm for attending class*
Itziar Ruete-Fernández & Manoli Gutiérrez
- *Factors that promote sustainability in school attendance programs*
Yanira Alée
- *From individual cases to systemic patterns: A tiered, data-driven approach to reducing chronic absenteeism in [...]*
Rebeca Molina, Oriana Pizarro & Andrés Contreras
- *Reading for enjoyment: A literacy promotion workshop to foster school attendance*
Carla Sánchez-Peria & Angeles Suárez-Ramos

Spanish Session

COFFEE BREAK + POSTERS

- 08:30 - 08:45
- 08:45 - 09:45
- 09:45 - 09:50
- 09:50 - 10:50
- 10:50 - 11:20
- 11:20 - 12:20
- 12:20 - 12:25
- 12:25 - 13:25
- 13:25 - 13:30
- 13:30 - 14:30
- 14:30 - 15:00
- 15:00 - 16:30

SYMPOSIUM



Nordic pathways back to school: A systematic review of interventions for school attendance problems

Coordinator: Katarina Alanko

ROOM CHANGE

WORKSHOP - Part II



The glue people: Who are they and what's their role in fostering school attendance?

Coordinator: Yali Horta Hurtado

ROOM CHANGE

SYMPOSIUM



Understanding the relationships between attendance and mental health - International perspectives utilising mixed method approaches

Coordinator: Tamsin Ford

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ORAL PRESENTATIONS - Multi-Tiered Attendance Support

- *Tiered, school-wide strategies to support students with school attendance challenges*
Sheryl Boswell
- *Did anyone ask me? - Student perspectives on school attendance problems and a Tier 3 [...]*
Belinda Burgess, Johanna Chen & Mel Francisus
- *Do affective latent profiles differ in school refusal behaviour scores in the Spanish youth [...]*
Ricardo Sanmartín & Lucía Granados

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LIBRARY CORNER



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ORAL PRESENTATIONS - Attendance Interventions & Re-engagement

- *Enhancing teacher-student relationships to support school attendance? The potential of banking [...]*
Viktoria Pöschmüller, Tijs Bolz, Alex Neuhauser, Lars Mohr & Tatjana Leidig
- *School attendance as a public health challenge: Primary prevention*
Esther Pijl & Vera Buijs
- *Beyond anxiety: Understanding school avoidance through shame and pathways to re-engagement*
Anne Vestergaard Jensen

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ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION



The INSA Chile Network: Where is school attendance in Chile heading?

María de la Luz González, Yanira Alée & Rebeca Molina

Spanish Session

ROOM CHANGE

SYMPOSIUM



Leveraging large datasets and applying a bioecological framework to further understanding of school non-attendance and contributing factors in Australia and the UK

Coordinators: Amy Meade, Lauren Cameron & Chloe Eddy

ROOM CHANGE

SYMPOSIUM



The role of schools and parents in understanding and intervening for students with school attendance problems. Presentation from Finland and Norway

Coordinator: Trude Havik

STAYING ON COURSE: WHAT WE TAKE FORWARD

ORAL PRESENTATIONS - Autism & EBSA

- *Developing our understanding of EBSA in autistic students: A multi-stakeholder study*
Katharine Chadbourne, Glenn Melvin, Michael Larkin & Jade Sheen
- *They should've listened to me - Autistic flourishing as prerequisite for school attendance*
Isabella Sasso & Fernanda Esqueda Villegas
- *Supporting autistic students with early signs of EBSA: Investigating the feasibility of a teacher [...]*
Johanna Taylor

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SYMPOSIUM



Designing for impact: Building a national implementation network for an MTSS framework for school attendance through dissemination science

Coordinators: Patricia Graczyk, Rene Halberstadt & Marije Brouwer-Borghuis

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ORAL PRESENTATIONS - Attendance Measurement & Data

- *Presentation of the thesis: Measuring school attendance problems - validation of the School [...]*
Johan Strömbeck
- *Associations between students' learning experiences and different types of school absence [...]*
Eeva-Liisa Markkanen, Katarina Alanko, Nelli Lyyra, Jenni Helenius & Niina Junttila
- *Chronic absenteeism in Chilean primary education: Territorial patterning and associations with [...]*
Carolina Soto-Urbe, Cristian Riveros-Matthey & Mary Catherine Arbour

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LUNCH



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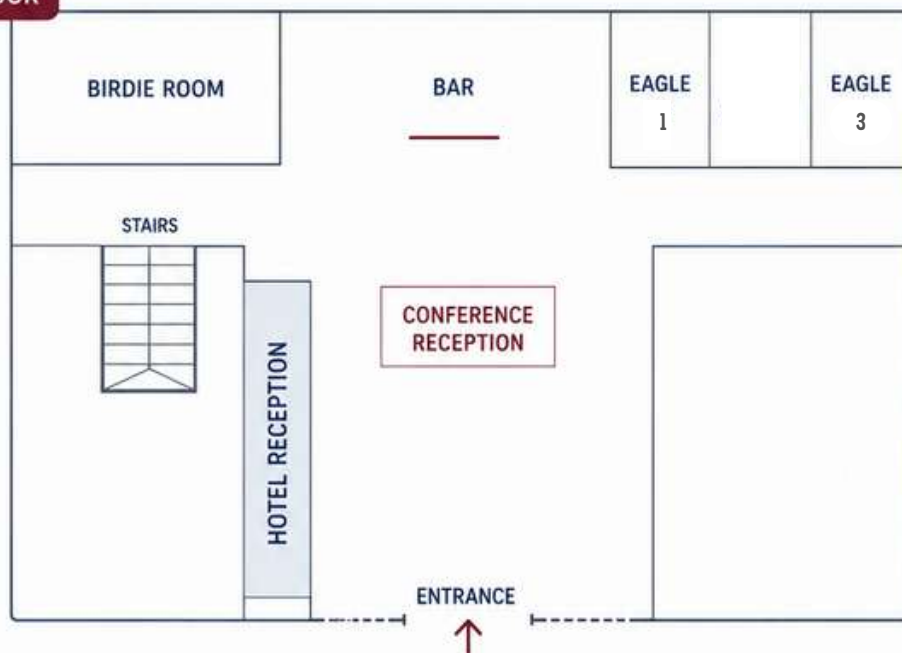


THANK YOU!



FLOOR PLAN & KEY AREAS

GROUND FLOOR

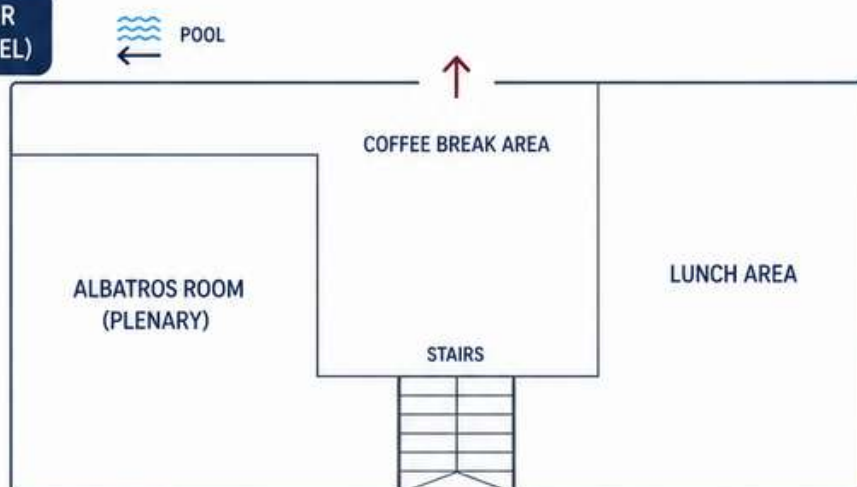


Hotel Entrance



Reception Area

LOWER FLOOR (PLENARY LEVEL)



Eagle Rooms



Pool



Albatros Room (Plenary)



Coffee Break Area



Birdie Room