



## Expertise Network for School Attendance

From 9 March 2022, the **National Expertise Team for School Refusal** will continue as the **Expertise Network for School Attendance (KNSA)**. Started in 2015, as a small group of professionals who exchanged experience and knowledge about dealing with youths displaying school refusal, the KNSA has grown into a large network with more than 100 members.

On the national level, more and more attention is being paid to school attendance and the way in which it can be promoted, partly due to initiatives from the KNSA. The KNSA has also grown in the international movement from curation to prevention. The concept of school attendance refers to a school-wide approach based on a positive and preventive approach aimed at all students. All in all, this new focus provides sufficient reason to broaden the view to prevention and curation of school attendance problems.

### Core activity

Learning with and from each other is the core activity of the KNSA. With both scientists and professionals from education and support services (e.g., mental health care) on board, school attendance is looked at from different perspectives. The aim is to share and create knowledge about school attendance and foster the connection between research and practice.

### Outcomes

A result of the connection between scientists and professionals within the KNSA is the recently published research 'Knowing What Works' (Heyne et al., 2021). Based on research conducted on 21 interventions, of which most of the developers or users are currently also members of the KNSA, 14 signposts have been identified that describe essential conditions for effective interventions for school refusal.

### Meetings

The KNSA meets three times in a schoolyear around a theme related to school refusal/school attendance. During each meeting, an (inter)national guest speaker is invited to present his or her research and/or intervention. After the plenary part of the meeting, the participants split up into subgroups to exchange experiences, developments and knowledge with each other. Over the past two years, these meetings have been forced to take place digitally. In the upcoming years, the KNSA hopes to be able to meet physically as much as possible at a central location in the Netherlands.

### Positioning

The KNSA holds close ties with The International Network for School Attendance (INSA), which means that knowledge exchange can also take place at an international level. Since 2021 the KNSA has been facilitated by the Dutch Youth Institute (Nji). The KNSA steering committee includes members who are affiliated with multiple national support groups (i.e., Ingrado, VO-raad, Nji, and Steunpunt Passend Onderwijs), Leiden University, two educational partnerships, and a mental health care organization. As a result, the KNSA is strongly positioned at both the international and the national level.

### Further information

For further information please contact the chairpersons of the KNSA:

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