# INPLASY

## Explanatory variables of student dropout in preschool, primary, secondary, and high school in state or private educational institutions: an umbrella review of systematic reviews

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## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Support -** Universidad of Bogotá Jorge Tadeo Lozano and Corporación Universitaria de Asturias.

**Review Stage at time of this submission -** The review has not yet started.

**Conflicts of interest -** None declared.

**INPLASY registration number:** INPLASY202390084

**Amendments -** This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 26 September 2023 and was last updated on 26 September 2023.

## INTRODUCTION

*R*eview question / Objective What variables explain student dropout among children and young people in preschool, primary, secondary, and high school education in state or private educational institutions?

**Rationale** The justification for studying student retention can be analyzed from two perspectives: first, the social significance of individuals leaving the educational system at various levels and the challenges it presents for diagnosis; and second, the approach required for addressing this complex issue, which involves examining it from different perspectives, including umbrella reviews.
The analysis of databases contributes to enabling decision-makers to monitor and track explanatory variables for student dropout, public policies, and institutional policies related to social, economic, and educational aspects that are interconnected, providing an updated overview of the student dropout situation. Additionally, an umbrella review focused on explanatory variables for student dropout can highlight gaps and opportunities in the study and modeling of student dropout among children and young people in preschool, primary, secondary, and high school education in both state and private educational institutions.

**Condition being studied** Student dropout among children and young people in preschool, primary, secondary, and high school in state or private educational institutions.

## METHODS

**Search strategy** To identify potentially relevant documents, the following databases will be used: SCOPUS, Web of Science, ERIC, EBSCO, ProQuest, and JSTOR. The search will be conducted using truncated symbols and Boolean operators to maximize the inclusion of relevant terms. The search terms have been formulated based on previous literature reviews and have been selected to ensure coverage of synonyms

used by scholars to refer to dropout in English. These terms include: "dropout," "drop out," "drop-out," "desertion," "attrition," "dropping out," and "withdrawal." Appropriate truncation will be applied to capture all variations of each term.

In Portuguese, the terms "abandono" and "evasão" will be used.

To narrow the search, the following terms will be used: "Early childhood education," "Preschool education," "Preprimary education," "Early childhood care and education," "ECCE," "Nursery schools," "kindergarten," "Primary education," "Elementary education," "Lower secondary education," "middle school," "Upper secondary education," and "high school." Additionally, the following terms will be used as exclusion terms: "Parent education," "Parenting education," "Family education," and "Special schools."

To narrow the search in Portuguese, "ensino fundamental" and "ensino medio" will be used, and terms such as "creche," "jardim," and "berçário" will be excluded from the search.

**Participant or population** Children and young students in preschool, primary, secondary, and high school education.

**Intervention** Variables explaining student dropout.

**Comparator** The character of educational institutions: public or private.

**Study designs to be included** Only systematic reviews that have been published following the peer review process will be included.

**Eligibility criteria** For the present study, the review will include peer-reviewed documents that focus on student dropout among children and young people in preschool, primary, secondary, and high school education. The selected documents must be systematic reviews, and reviews published in conference proceedings, book chapters, theses, and any other publication medium other than academic journals will be excluded. Only documents written in English, Portuguese, or Spanish will be included. Works that mix students from childcare or nursery settings and do not provide a distinctive analysis for student populations will not be included.

**Information sources** The source of information will be limited to the electronic databases mentioned in the search strategy section, thus ensuring the quality of the editorial process for the selected documents.

**Main outcome(s)** Umbrella Review Protocol, Research Methodology, Literature Search, Methodological Quality Reporting of Reviews Results Reporting.

**Additional outcome(s)** For this stage, the reviewers will jointly create a spreadsheet to determine which variables should be extracted from the documents, thus generating a standardized abstraction tool. The completion of a spreadsheet will be done independently by the reviewers, and the results will be discussed and updated through an iterative process.

**Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis** To carry out the assessment of the primary studies' quality, previously established and recognized criteria from the academic literature will be employed. These criteria will cover key aspects related to research design, methodology, sample selection, data analysis, and presentation of results. Each study will be rated based on its adherence to these criteria, allowing for the determination of scientific rigor and the reliability of the presented results.

Additionally, a thorough analysis of potential biases that may affect the validity of the primary studies will be conducted. Factors such as selection bias, information bias, and confounding bias, among others, will be identified and considered. This systematic assessment of the risk of bias will provide a more comprehensive and objective view of the methodological quality of the studies included in the umbrella review.

It is essential to emphasize that the quality of the primary studies and the associated risk of bias will be taken into account in the analysis of the results and the interpretation of the conclusions in this umbrella review.

**Strategy of data synthesis** The reviews will be included according to the data extraction tables from https://synthesismanual.jbi.global. The summary of processes, List of relevant conclusions from each review, Tables, and graphics will be utilized in the review.

**Subgroup analysis** Public and private educational institutions.

**Sensitivity analysis** Not apply.

**Language restriction** Only systematic reviews that have been published after the peer review process in Spanish, Portuguese, or English will be considered.

**Country(ies) involved** Colombia.

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