School Completion Strategies

October is National Dropout Prevention Month. The implications of dropping out are high for students, families, communities, and society as a whole; therefore, it is pivotal that we bridge the gaps for students at-risk of dropping out by utilizing effective interventions and identifying students early (Wilkins & Bost, 2015).

National Dropout Prevention Month challenges our nation to become better informed about how to prevent students from dropping out of school. The following resources are provided to support LEAs in increasing graduation rates and decreasing students who drop-out of school.

GaDOE School Completion Toolkit

The School Completion Toolkit provides links to state and national resources, as well as successful practices from LEAs across the state, aimed at improving outcomes for all students, including students with disabilities. All resources shared on this handout can be found on the GaDOE School Completion Toolkit.

National Research Center School Completion Resources

Transition Coalition: School Completion Strategies that Work in Rural Schools

National Dropout Prevention Center: 15 Effective Strategies for Dropout Prevention
Implement and Monitor an Early Warning System

Early Warning Systems (EWS) are an important strategy to monitor students who may be at-risk for dropping out. Early Warning Systems are based on established indicators that predict whether a student is off-track for graduation. By tracking Early Warning Indicators, it is possible to identify when students are beginning to fall off-track, providing time to intervene and alter their trajectory to keep students on the pathway to graduation.

American Institute for Research (AIR): Can Early Warning Systems prevent Students from Dropping out of High School?

- A Pathway to Localizing Early Warning Indicators (Video)
- District guide to creating indicators for early warning system (PDF)
- Worksheet to use with the district guide (PDF)
- Early Warning Intervention and Monitoring System (EWIMS): American Institute for Research (AIR) Video Series:
Check and Connect Student Engagement Intervention

*Check & Connect* is an intervention used with K-12 students who show warning signs of disengagement with school and who are at risk of dropping out. At the core of *Check & Connect* is a trusting relationship between the student and a caring, trained mentor who both advocates for and challenges the student to keep education salient.


Check and Connect is the only dropout prevention intervention to show positive effects for staying in school.

Currently in Georgia over 120 schools are implementing C&C and we have 21 statewide trainers available to help districts implement the C&C framework. Check and Connect Training is FREE through the GLRS. If you are interested in implementing Check and Connect in your LEA please contact your GLRS at [Georgia Check and Connect Information](http://www.gadoe.org/Programs/CheckConnect/).
Monitor Dropout Data

In addition to the data that will be collected throughout the process of implementing the selected interventions as well as the improvement process itself, there are also state and federal reports that should be accessed periodically as the information found in these reports will provide valuable information and aide in informing action steps that may need to be added or adjusted.

Student Record Report ENR019b- Dropout Reason Report

- This report will display all students who have dropped out and the reason they dropped out.

Student Record Report SR 057b- Graduation Diploma Information

- This report may be checked after graduation data has been entered in Student Record. This report should be checked prior to sign-off. This report will display who is receiving a diploma and what type of diploma is being reported- General Education or Special Education. (As a reminder- special education diplomas count against your graduation rate.)

For additional information contact:
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