Ensuring Academic Success For At-Risk Students
At-Risk Students

- Culturally Deprived
- Underprivileged
- Disenfranchised
- Low Performing/Low Achieving
- Low Income
Scope Of The Problem

- Study by the Administration on Children, Youth and Families
  - Interviewed 656 homeless youth, ages 14-21
  - Almost 44% had been involved in a juvenile detention center, jail, or prison;
  - Nearly 78% had at least one prior incarceration with the police; and
  - Nearly 62% had been arrested at some point in their lives
- 50% of adolescents aging out of foster care and juvenile justice systems will be homeless within 6 months.

- Why did they first experience homelessness:
  - 51% asked to leave home or were kicked out
  - 25% couldn’t find a job
  - 24% physical abuse or beaten
  - 23% caregiver drug or alcohol abuse; and
  - 13% own drug or alcohol issues
Challenges

- Transitional age = Between adolescence and adulthood
- Limited resources (ie. Access to phone, transportation, and internet)
- Limited access to youth shelters and not appropriate for an adult shelter
- Families unable to take in homeless youth due to criminal background
- Adult servicing program requirements (ie. Job, access to income)
- Family is not option!!!
School Culture

Refers to way teachers and staff work together and the set of beliefs and values they share.

Influences how students:

- Think
- Feel
- Act
Positive Outcomes

- It boosts students’ achievement and assist in closing achievement gaps.
- Increases high school graduation rates.
- Decreases student dropout rates.
- Assist in turning around low-performing schools.
- Improves students sense of physically safety in their classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, and outside the school building.
Building A Team = Student Success

• Teacher
• Principal
• Counselor
• Graduation Coach
• Homeless Liaison
• Social Worker
• Parents
• Mentors/Advocates
• Community Services
Student Productivity Enhance when Teachers

• Maintain a comfortable and welcoming classroom environment
• Build positive relationships with students
• Build supportive partnerships with parents
• Provide culturally diverse students with equal opportunities to participate
• Believe that ALL students can achieve and act upon their beliefs
Create A Daily Planner

• What are the top 3 things I want to accomplish today?

• Develop a schedule to accomplish task (Date, Day, and Time).
Identified Barriers

- Lack of access to school records and other
- Resulting in hunger, fatigue, and poor health
- Lack of basic needs, including food and medical care
- Emotional crises/mental health issues
- Lack of safe and stable housing
- Lack of support from a caring adult
- Family problems
- Transitions from foster care and other public systems
- Economic problems
- Inconsistency of services across schools.
Identify Data Source & Analyze Data

Data ~ A collection of facts from which conclusions can be drawn

Types:
- Demographic
- Perception
- Teaching and Learning
- School, Family, Community, Partnership
- Indicators of Success
PERCEPTION DATA

• “They’re too poor.”
• “Their parents don’t care.”
• “They come to school without an adequate breakfast.”
• “They don’t have enough books in the homes.”
• “They move around too much”.
• “Too many days out of school”.

## Building Parents/Staff/Students Capacity

### Research Shows Parental Involvement Benefits Parents, Teachers, and Students

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<tr>
<th><strong>Parents</strong></th>
<th><strong>Districts/Schools Teachers</strong></th>
<th><strong>Students</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extensive parent involvement leads to higher student achievement</td>
<td>Students have higher grades and test scores</td>
<td>Students exhibit more positive attitudes and behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students have higher grades and test scores</td>
<td>Improved attendance</td>
<td>Students have higher graduation rates and greater enrollment rates in post-secondary education</td>
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<td>Students develop realistic plans for their future</td>
<td>Complete homework more consistently</td>
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Planning for Transition:

- Early Learning – Elementary
- Elementary – Middle
- Middle – High
- High School – Career Path, Two Year College, and/or College
- Parent Engagement
- Job & Career
- Life skills
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Thank you for your participation!