



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

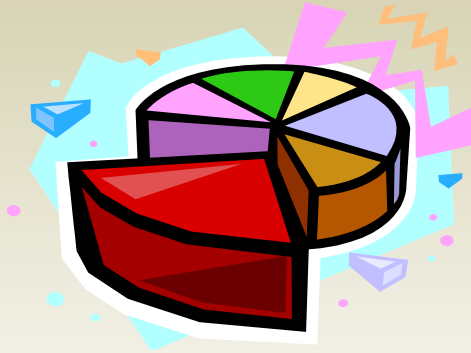
- Lack of access to school records and other
- Resulting in hunger, fatigue, and poor health
- Lack of basic needs, including food and medical care
- Emotional crises/mental health issues
- Lack of safe and stable housing
- Lack of support from a caring adult
- Family problems
- Transitions from foster 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

Parents

- Extensive parent involvement leads to higher student achievement
- Students have higher grades and test scores
- Students develop realistic plans for their future

Districts/Schools

Teachers

- Students have higher grades and test scores
- Improved attendance
- Complete homework more consistently
- Students have higher graduation rates and greater enrollment rates in post-secondary education

Students

- Students exhibit more positive attitudes and behavior
- Students have higher graduation rates and greater enrollment rates in post-secondary education



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 you participation!