



# WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE

THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH

**Pamela Dugan, State Director**

4770 Paynes Ford Road Kearneysville, WV 25430

Phone (304)661-1460 Email: [pdugan@frontiernet.net](mailto:pdugan@frontiernet.net)

[www.fivepromises.wv.gov](http://www.fivepromises.wv.gov)

Why do Students drop out of school?

- No support at home
- No connections (peers, teachers, other adults)
- Poor attendance
- Teacher prejudice
- Substance abuse
- School is boring
- Pregnancy
- Failing grades/lack of credits
- Generational
- Home life carries over/taken on adult role in home
- Bullying/Peer pressure

What are the solutions?

- More mentoring relationships/career-based learning
- Review/change graduation requirements
- Greater involvement of school personnel
- Add more services for at-risk students
- Reach out to parents
- Greater funding for hands-on learning and field trips
- Increase staff development training in interpersonal and other skills
- Educate students about the value of education
- Increased community and parent involvement
- Develop ways to increase funds for education
- Policy changes
- Flexible schedules--school day starts later, evening classes

Identify Recommended Best Practices

- Increase drop out age to 18
- Pre-crisis, start identifying risk in elementary school or before
- Longer school year/school day
- Review rigid guidelines (ex. Zero tolerance, suspension policy)
- Find ways of coping with inflexibility at state and federal level (ex. No Child Left Behind)
- Reduce ease of access to GED
- Provide mental health support to schools
- Reduce standardized testing
- Mandatory parent meetings with all teachers