



State Summit on High School Graduation & Dropout Prevention

“Community....Drop in to Prevent Drop-outs”

Tuesday, July 14, 5:00-9:00pm

Charleston Civic Center, Charleston, WV

Why Do Students Drop Out Of School?

- Lack of Support at home and school
 - Kids are bored
 - Attendance Problems
 - Teacher Prejudice
 - Substance Abuse
- Once they start to fail they give up because of too many adult careers (working, parenting)
 - Higher standards can't be met so they give up
 - Educators think not enough parent support
 - Lack of support at home and school
 - A lot of students are unnoticed
 - Attendance is a major problem leading to drop outs
 - Are parents connected to their children? - Parent support
 - Substance abuse-both parents and students
 - Sometimes students are not challenged enough
 - Classes are large
 - Lack of support from the community
 - Youth are not aware of jobs and the necessary skill-sets thus they lack motivation
 - “Teacher Prejudice”
 - Family Responsibilities
 - Lack of Success
 - Loss of hope-lack of resiliency skills
 - No Goals
 - Snowball effect of real life challenges
 - Peer Pressure
 - Forms of abuse-mental, physical, substance
 - Lack of Parenting skills
 - Parents Value System “ I’m a dropout and I turned out fine”
 - No support at home and no connections
 - Non Caring Teachers – no connection
 - Boredom





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- Frustration due to lack of academic success
- Low work ethics
- Drug Use
- Lack of personal touch
- Lack of respect from teachers
- Ease of dropping out
- No place to fit in
- Limited Transportation
- Schools too large
- Lack of connection between subject and relevance to the future
- Student Mental Health Issues
- Teachers Favoritism
- Lack of Motivation or encouragement
- Attitude
- Lack of structure
- Weak attendance laws
- Lack of Credits
- Lack of expectations at school
- Bullying
- Lack of role models
- They associate college w/ money- low income families
- Lack of interesting curriculum of activities at school
- No Motivation
- Overcrowded classrooms
- Perception that the GED is easily accessible
- Outdated classroom and teaching methods & practices.
- Parents waiting too long before becoming actively involved in their child's education progress. (usually already to late)
- “cookie cutter” services
- Lack of parent involvement in there children's schooling when they get to high school
- Kids don't have the resources at home.
- Some kids can't stay after school because they live so far away- Lack of transportation





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What are the Solutions?

- Counselors could start groups for kids at risk for dropping out and involve parents.
- Early intervention with at-risk students
- Truancy diversion social workers
- Make schools more of a community building.
- Address substance abuse issues with parents with students, with teachers.
- Increased Counseling services in schools
- Mentoring programs through the teachers
- Parental Support opportunities
- Early intervention in reading
- Assess students to designate class size for reading intervention
- Teach youth about career possibilities
- The Five Promised for ALL youth.
 - A safe place
 - Caring Adult
 - A health Start
 - Effective Education
 - Opportunities to help others
- Alternative Schools with wrap around services
- Truancy Diversion in every county
- Intramural sports for ineligible students
- Focus on students strengths –not all students learn the same
- Increase community involvement/mentoring relationships
- Educate PARENTS about the value of education
- Ensure Reading skills are in place
- Family Intervention to build a safe environment
- More after school programs- tutoring, mentoring (not just sports)
- Adjusting school schedules to meet times that are more conducive to learning
- School based mental health programs to help kids deal with problems.
- Student involvement in leadership
- Speakers who can connect with kids
- Programs to establish reading by grade 3
- Needs of Technology





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- Reduce School sizes
- Home Intervention
- Mentors
- Drug testing for both personnel and students (not just athletes)
- Flexible schedule(so students who must work can do so in morning and go to school in evening)
- Counseling and mentoring a must to provide a caring environment
- Healthcare on site
- Nurturing: Advisor /advisee
- Career Exploration not clusters
- More extra Curricular activities
- Use Healthier providers to talk to kids about the value of learning
- Expand mentoring Programs
- Drug Education/ drug testing
- Healthy Lifestyles increase physical activity
- Better communication with parents about graduation requirements
- Support Groups
- Community in Schools Programs
- Stop blaming
- Mandatory adult roles classes
- Early identification
- Renewing policies – Remove the barriers
- Counselors need to be more active in the student’s future.
- Need to start making the children 1st again
- Caring Teachers
- Change middle school curriculum to better “at risk” students
- More Hands on Learning.
- Higher expectations
- Teach teachers to teach
- Active classroom engagement & learning
- Incentives to stay in school
- Support coordinated school to help with behavioral health problems.
- Must make schools more caring/mentoring environment
- Reach out to parents
- Volunteers





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- Insure every student is a reader
- State Standards are to high

Identify Recommended Best Practices!

- Redesign curriculum in secondary level.
- Need mental health services for all children.
- Yearlong school with breaks along
- Early Intervention in elementary
- Expose college students to schools to see if they like it as a career
- Get parents involved
- Mountaineer Challenge Program
- Credit Recovery
- Mandatory parent meetings with all teachers
- Teachers make home visits of all students
- Interesting curriculum for the student
- Vocational tract for students who would excel there.
- Year round school with smaller vacations.
- Truancy diversion workers
- Make parents & volunteers feel welcomed in schools
- Administration has to be welcoming to adults who help are willing to help in the school
- Mandatory meeting with parents
- Alternative education
- Pre-Intervention
- Longer school year, Not longer Days
- Family Central Practice(the truancy Diversion social work Program)
- Mountaineer Challenge available
- Capturing kids Heart Training
- Principal Flexibility to hire /move/fire their own staff- Merit Pay
- Year round school
- Lower Class Sizes
- Dropout age completers counted as successful graduates
- Voucher Program- for one that is parent chosen





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- Mandatory afterschool tutoring until attaining an A or B level in that subject
- 21st Century afterschool program
- Boys & Girls Club
- Getting the “arts” back into student’s lives.
- P.A.S.S (students tutoring younger students)
- Ementoring.org
- GEAR- UP – all counties need it!
- Truancy diversion
- Global Level 21 –TIS
- Alternative grading
- Ensure kids can read and do math by 3rd grade
- Provide all schools the PRO officers
- Youth Sports (WV Blazers) serve as mentors
- Communities in Schools
- Check in / Checkout Program
- After school support groups
- Internships
- Project based learning
- Student involvement
- Nurse utilization for health needs
- 1st year college students to help out volunteering with classes or senior projects
- Frequent communication one-on-one with parents.
- Early identification and addressing of
 - Reading deficits
 - Skill deficits
 - Vocational interests
- Communities in school – mentoring
- Engage the Health Community in school related discussions
- Comprehensive school counseling Programs
- Universal pre-k
- “Don’t make GED a bad thing”
- Making parent meetings “mandatory” difficult
- Early parent intervention





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- Reducing access to GED's- increase age limit
- Credit Recovery programs
- Increase use of computers in home programs
- Increase opportunities in the arts/ related subjects during school day
- Challenge a “wrap around” program... www.wvchallenge.org
- Less “high stakes” testing
- Better connections (mentoring)
- Diversity & inclusion programs
- Blazers Programs
- At risk Programs- WRAP(for youth) & FAST (for parents)
- Contract with dropouts – if they chose to come back... have to to stay the whole year.
- Youth Empowerment Program

