

Most Common Reasons Reported Regional Summits

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