

How Do We Address the School Dropout Problem?

Interventions that Work

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Before We Can Find a Solution, We MUST first Acknowledge the Problem

Ideal:

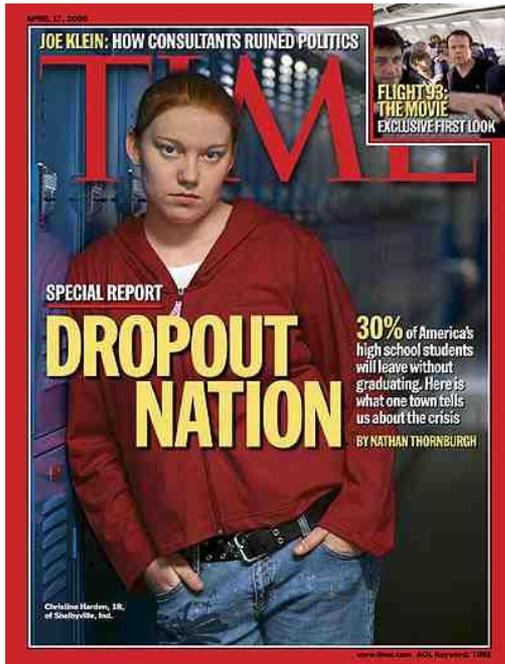
Student + Education = Success

Reality for the Majority of Students:

Student + Barriers – Education = Failure

One Solution:

Address the Barriers to Education



Key to Preventing Dropout is to Address ALL Barriers to Learning

SURPRISING REASONS STUDENTS DON'T GO TO SCHOOL

THEY'RE HUNGRY

When a child is hungry, he or she can't focus on school, extracurricular activities or the future.



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Identify the Early Warning Signs:

Poor academic performance

Chronic absenteeism/tardiness

Lack of course credits/off track

Address the Underlying Causes (Actual Barriers):

Family Conflict

Peer Pressure

Pregnancy

Violence

Homelessness

Bullying

Relationships

Depression

Language Challenges

Violence

Mental Health Issues

Lack of Parental Engagement

Physical Health Problems

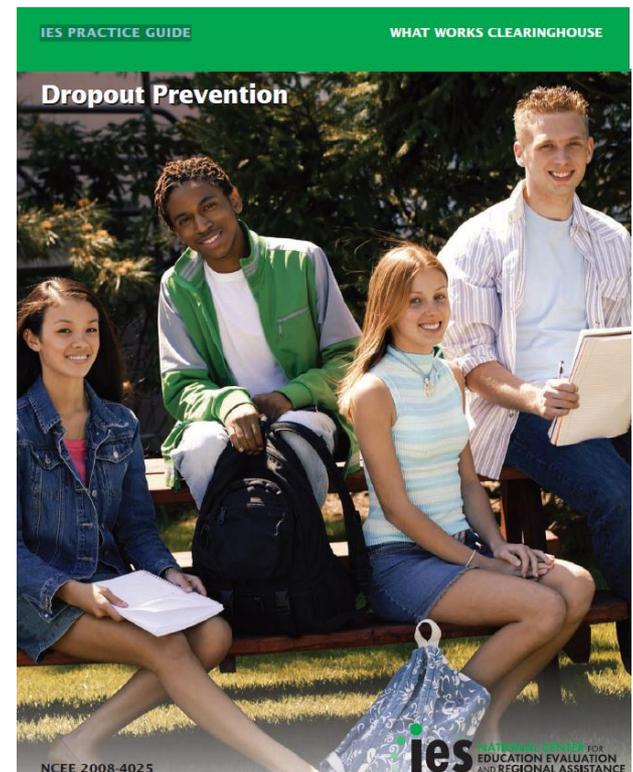
Learning Disability

Substance Abuse

Financial Concerns

So What Works?

- Institute of Education Sciences (IES)/What Works Clearinghouse (WWC)
 - <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc>
- National Dropout Prevention Center
 - www.dropoutprevention.org



So What Works?

1. Utilizing **data systems** that provide accurate information on the number of students who drop out and who are at risk of dropping out (EWS/EWI)
2. Assigning **adult advocates** to students at risk of dropping out (close monitoring)
3. Providing **academic support and enrichment** to improve academic performance
4. Implement **programs to improve students' behavior and social skills** (PBIS/SEL)
5. **Personalize the learning environment** and instructional process
6. Provide **rigorous and relevant instruction** to better engage students in learning and provide them with skills needed to graduate and to serve them after they leave school

A Necessary But Not Sufficient Approach to the Dropout Crisis

Implement **programs to improve students' behavior and social skills (PBIS/SEL)**

- Help students establish attainable goals
- Recognize students' accomplishments
- Teach strategies to strengthen problem-solving and decision-making skills
- Establish partnerships with community-based program providers and other agencies, such as social services, welfare, mental health, law enforcement, etc.

A Necessary But Not Sufficient Approach to the Dropout Crisis

Integrated Student Supports (ISS): A school-based approach to promoting students' academic success by developing or securing and coordinating supports that target cognitive and non-cognitive barriers to academic achievement.

These resources range from traditional tutoring and mentoring to provision of a broader set of supports, such as linking students to physical and mental health care and connecting their families to parent education, family counseling, food banks, or employment assistance.

While ISS programs take many forms, integration is key to the model—both integration of supports to meet individual students' needs and integration of the ISS program into the life of a school.

Call to Action

- ~11M students in need of Integrated Student Supports BUT only 1.7M have access to an evidence-based model of ISS
- Integrated Student Supports can no longer be a “nice-to-have” but NEED to be part of ANY education reform strategy/model
- Integrated Student Supports are NECESSARY but NOT SUFFICIENT. We need strong education leaders, quality teachers, relevant instruction, AND parent and community involvement!

Everyone Graduates!

Building a Grad Nation

Progress and Challenge in Ending the High School Dropout Epidemic

