

# Transition Guide: Dropout Prevention



## Engaging Students in Planning for the Future

### Why Do Students Drop Out?

Couldn't keep up with schoolwork. Getting poor grades. Got a job. Thought they



couldn't complete the requirements. Pregnancy. Suspensions or expulsion for behavior. Family responsibilities. There are many reasons why a student may drop out of school before graduation. However, there are just as many strategies to support students in making the choice to remain in school. Let's explore the options. Everyone has a role to play.

### Before You Drop Out...

Before you drop out of school, have you considered other ways to get your education and complete your diploma requirements besides the traditional school environment? There are many options available. Consider the following alternative school options before you decide that education isn't for you.

- ❖ Alternate classrooms
- ❖ Specialized educational programs
- ❖ Separate schools
- ❖ Private schools
- ❖ Homeschool options
- ❖ Virtual school options
- ❖ Magnet school
- ❖ Job training/technical schools
- ❖ Residential schools
- ❖ Summer schools/summer enrichment

### Student Strategies that Encourage Graduation

- ◆ Show up. Be punctual and prepared for class.
- ◆ Be an active learner. Engage with your teacher, classmates, and the curriculum.
- ◆ Make the most of the instruction and opportunities given.
- ◆ Know and voice your weaknesses and struggles. Ask for help.
- ◆ Know and utilize your strengths and abilities. Offer to help others when you can.
- ◆ Be involved in the planning process. Attend and participate in your Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 meetings.
- ◆ Share your dreams with those who can help you achieve them.
- ◆ Build relationships with those who will support you in achieving your dream. Choose your friends carefully.
- ◆ Avoid illegal and destructive activities such as alcohol, drugs, violence and damaging relationships.
- ◆ Find a mentor who is already a little further in the journey than you are.
- ◆ Don't give up! Remember you ARE worth the effort.

- ❖ Credit remediation
- ❖ Charter schools
- ❖ Evening classes
- ❖ GED programs
- ❖ Tutoring
- ❖ Community education and training programs
- ❖ Community service programs
- ❖ College-based alternative schools
- ❖ Consider alternative diploma options



## Considerations for Educators

Do you have high expectations for EVERY student?

Have you considered all of the alternative options available?

Do you know what motivates this student?

Have you asked the questions "What would make this work for you?"

Does the student feel supported?

Have you supported and educated the parents?

*"What's amazing is, if young people understood how doing well in school makes the rest of their life so much more interesting, they would be more motivated. It's so far away in time that they can't appreciate what it means for their whole life."*

—Bill Gates

## 16 Things Parents Can Do to Encourage Graduation

1. Expect your child will graduate
2. Ensure individualized instruction when necessary
3. Be sure your child is attending school every day
4. Build relationships with teachers
5. Teach skills, not just academics, and tie your child's IEP goals to their long-term plans
6. Focus on literacy from kindergarten
7. Encourage your student verbally
8. Problem-solve with your child when they encounter a barrier
9. Limit TV, phone and technology time when it is not academically challenging
10. Problem-solve with your child when they encounter a barrier
11. Have designated homework/study time from early childhood
12. Seek help for yourself and your child at first signs of struggle
13. Be involved! Know your child's influencers - Who are their friends?
14. Know what motivates your child and build that into the transition plan
15. Know which diploma track your child is pursuing
16. Know the role of educational conservatorship or guardianship if your child is not able to make educational decisions

### Dropout Prevention Resources

[www.dropoutprevention.org](http://www.dropoutprevention.org)

[www.nea.org/home/DropoutPrevention.html](http://www.nea.org/home/DropoutPrevention.html)

[www.schargel.com/2007/12/17/15-effective-strategies-for-dropout-prevention/](http://www.schargel.com/2007/12/17/15-effective-strategies-for-dropout-prevention/)

[www.ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/pdf/practice\\_guides/dp\\_pg\\_090308.pdf](http://www.ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/pdf/practice_guides/dp_pg_090308.pdf)

