
Prevention and Intervention for School Dropout for Students with EBD

Natalie Hoff, Shir Palmon, Nathan Speer,
Ana Damme, & Reece Peterson
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Meet Lucas



Meet Gwen



Overview

- Why do students dropout?
- What can schools do?
- What can individuals do?
- School-wide improvement planning
- What do we do after students dropout?



Why do students drop out?

It's complicated!



Why Students Dropout

- Bullying
- Substance abuse
- Failing grades
- Mental Health Conditions
- Pregnancy
- Probation/Legal Troubles
- Financial Responsibility
- Grade Retention
- Medical Conditions
- Exclusionary Discipline
- Truancy
- Low Academic Expectations
- Gang Affiliation
- Family Responsibility
- Lack of Transportation
- Unaware of Alternatives
- Dropout of Peers
- School Violence
- Lack of Motivation/Interest
- Family Support for Dropout

The ABC's of Dropout

Attendance

ABC

Course

Performance

Behavior

Other Factors That Contribute to Dropout

I QUIT

Socioeconomic Status

**Other Factors That Contribute
to Dropout**

A chalkboard with the words "I QUIT" written in white chalk. The "I" is a simple vertical line with a horizontal top bar. The "Q" is a large, stylized letter with a thick stroke and a curved tail. The "UIT" are also simple, blocky letters. The background is a dark, slightly textured surface.

School Climate

**Other Factors That Contribute
to Dropout**

A chalkboard with the words "I QUIT" written in white chalk. The "I" is a simple vertical line with a horizontal top bar. The "Q" is a large, stylized letter with a thick stroke and a curved tail. The "UIT" are also simple, blocky letters. The background is a dark, slightly textured surface.

Disability Status

Why Students Dropout

- Bullying
- Substance abuse
- Failing grades
- Mental Health Conditions
- Pregnancy
- Probation/Legal Troubles
- Financial Responsibility
- Grade Retention
- Medical Conditions
- Exclusionary Discipline
- Truancy
- Low Academic Expectations
- Gang Affiliation
- Family Responsibility
- Lack of Transportation
- Unaware of Alternatives
- Dropout of Peers
- School Violence
- Lack of Motivation/Interest
- Family Support for Dropout



What can schools do?

Photo credit: <http://www.azed.gov/dropout-prevention/>

Dropout Screening – Early Warning Systems

- Data collection system to identify at-risk students
- Flags key indicators to intervene effectively:
 - Attendance
 - Behavior
 - Course Performance
 - Engagement
 - Demographics
 - Disability Status
 - Grade Retention
 - Mobility

THE ABC'S OF IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL DROPOUTS

Attendance: 62% of dropouts surveyed had been skipping school at least once a week*

Behavior: 25% of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders had been suspended at least once*

Classwork: More than 40% of dropouts had failed at least 2 classes*

*According to 2009 report, "Youth Voices on the DC Graduation Crisis," by S.T.E.P. UP DC

Dropout Risk Calculator

	Data point	Format
	Student's ID number	Numeric; no decimal
	First name	Character
	Last name	Character
Disability Status	Does student have an IEP? (No, Yes)	No, Yes
	Exceptionality category	Numeric; no decimal
Course Performance	Student's score on 8th grade State Math test	Numeric; no decimal
	Student's score on 8th grade State English test	Numeric; no decimal
	Student's grade in 8th grade Math (0 to 100 scale)	Numeric; no decimal
	Student's grade in 8th grade English (0 to 100 scale)	Numeric; no decimal
Attendance	Student's attendance rate in 8th grade (% of instructional time present)	Numeric; no decimal
Behavior	Number of office referrals in 8th grade (all offenses - including suspensions)	Numeric; no decimal
	Number of suspensions in 8th grade (ISS and OSS)	Numeric; no decimal
Grade Retention	Number of times student was retained in grades K - 8	Numeric; no decimal
Demographics	Gender: (M, F)	Character
	Race / ethnicity (uses the new 7 codes)	Character
SES	Lunch assistance? (0, RPL, FL)	Character
Mobility	Number of different schools the student attended from K to present (0 to 10)	Numeric; no decimal
	Number of times the student has registered in a school (i.e., switched schools)	Numeric; no decimal
Engagement	Involved in a school club, sports, band, or choir in 8th grade? (No, Yes)	No, Yes
	State Ward Status	No, Yes

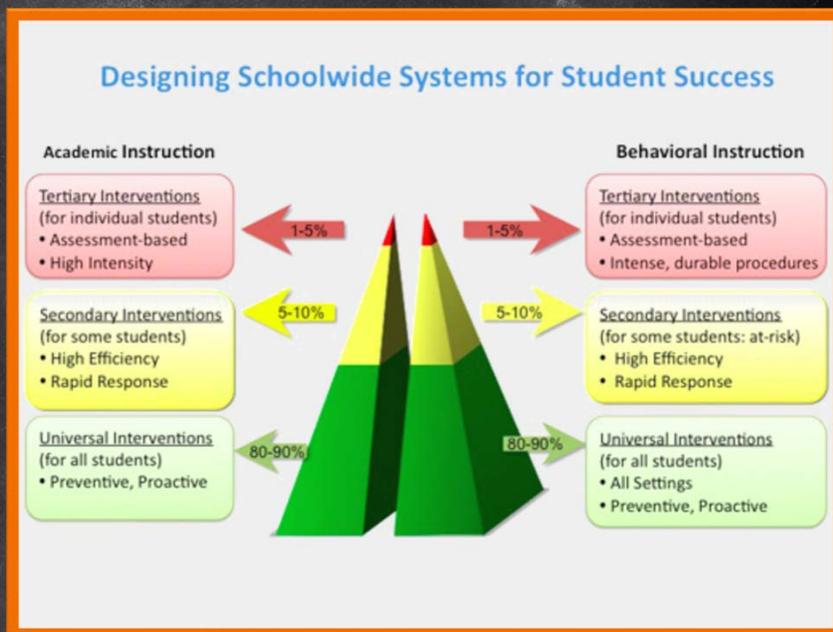
Dropout Risk Calculator – Matthew Klare (2013)

NDPC-SD 6th Grade Dropout Risk Calculator Report



Grade 6 Middle School - All students at midyear of SY 2012-13					Student may need intervention in these areas:				
Student ID	IEP?	Disability Category	Ethnicity	Risk Level	Math	English	Attendance	Behavior	Engagement
291871	N	0	WH7	High	X	X			
266205	N	0	BL7	Low					
219267	Y	550	WH7	Low		X			
215943	N	0	WH7	Low	X	X			
215531	N	0	WH7	Low		X			X
216279	N	0	AS7	Medium	X	X	X		X
216876	N	0	WH7	Low					
249827	N	0	WH7	High		X	X	X	X
228224	N	0	AS7	Medium	X	X	X		X
251552	N	0	HI7	Low					
251551	N	0	WH7	Low					

3-Tiered Model



We have identified students at risk...



What can teachers and school staff do?

Increase reinforcement!



What can teachers and school staff do?

2 X 10



What can teachers and school staff do?

Improve parent communication!



What can teachers and school staff do?



What can teachers and school staff do?



Academic Supports



School Improvement Planning

School Improvement Planning



Parent and Family Involvement

- Teachers concerned with parent and family involvement
- 73% of teachers and 70% of parents rated home-school communication and involvement as poor



1. Increase positive contact
2. Increase communication
3. Provide more opportunities for involvement

PREVENTION WORKS!

sometimes



Lucas dropped
out.

Now what?



Make it easy for them to walk back through the door!



Meet our students' needs

YOU are the most important intervention!

reconnect

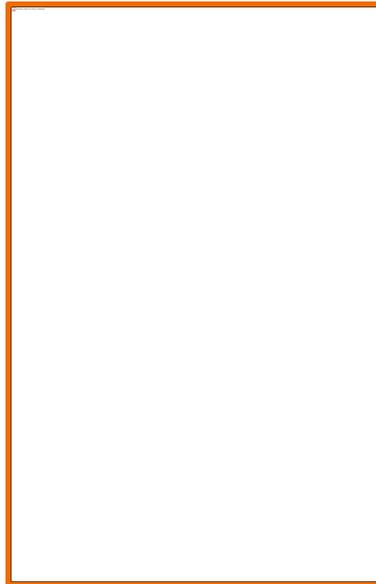


inform

Lucas



Gwen



 Building & Sustaining
Student Engagement

Questions?

For more information:

- <http://k12engagement.unl.edu>
- **Email:** engagement@unl.edu
- **Facebook:** Student Engagement Project
- **Twitter:** @k12engagement

