

NEWS & VIEWS

Tips. Research. Best Practices. Community.

DROPOUT PREVENTION:

MAKING
LEARNING
RELEVANT &
EXCITING



Every child deserves a chance to succeed! Increasing student motivation and self-efficacy is a major factor in impacting student success in school and in the workplace. This month's webinar highlighted a transformative journey undertaken by Red River Parish, LA and illustrated some of the strategies implemented across the school district to reduce dropout rates and increase student success after graduation.



We were proud to have Karen Squires as our [November Webinar Wednesday](#) guest speaker. Formerly a Director of Student Learning for the Red River Parish School Board in Coshatta, LA. Karen holds a Masters of Education degree from Northwestern State University and has been a teacher at both the elementary and high school levels. In addition, she has served as a Director of Special Education, Secondary Education Supervisor, a Principal, and an IEP Facilitator. Karen has a vast amount of experience in helping teachers develop and implement IEPS and transition plans, in providing effective career development programs, and in

WATCH DROPOUT PREVENTION WEBINAR HERE

Here is a sneak peek at some of the proactive, student-centric strategies that have proven effective for reducing dropout rates:



STRATEGIC GOAL SETTING

- What do your students need? Create goals around what you can do about it!
- Sort your goals into long and short term. Dropout prevention initiatives are not built overnight. Start with the high school level to have the biggest immediate impact, and then work down to elementary levels.
- Track your progress. Are test scores increasing? What about attendance rates? Think about sending a survey to students a year after graduation to follow up on their post-secondary goals!



PREVENTION WITH A PURPOSE

Students that feel they have a purpose at school are less likely to dropout. This goes beyond the classroom - do students feel a sense of direction in their lives, and do they see how school will help them achieve their goals? Without this, students may become disinterested in school and end up dropping out. Here are some ways to build in life and career

goal-setting for your students:



The worst thing we can possibly do, is to do nothing."

-Karen Squires



- Have middle school students create plans for high school & beyond.
- Build supports for all students to obtain career certifications upon graduation, even if they plan to go to college.
- Front load students with career skills. This creates freedom their senior year to do an apprenticeship or rigorous vocational training. ALL students can participate in a career transition program in 11th and 12th grades.



INTEGRATE CAREER & SOFT SKILLS

- Utilize hands-on curriculum to help students explore careers at lower grades and practice job tasks for higher grades.
- Have students interview to select which career they'd like to learn about. Then, incorporate soft skills that match the career (e.g. introducing manners when teaching table service careers.)
- Treat vocational learning like a job site. Have students clock in/out, practice job skills, and discuss various workplace scenarios and responses.

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

To see dropout success, it is crucial to develop key partnerships across the district.

- Career & Technical Education, Special Education, Paraprofessionals, Therapists, Counselors, General Education, and Leadership all need to have a unified vision and purpose in dropout prevention planning and implementation.
- Parents are some of your best partners! Show them you care about their children and want to help them be successful in the future. Buy-in from parents can be a complete game-changer!



DON'T REINVENT THE WHEEL

Consider getting a pre-made, hands-on program that includes everything you need to be successful teaching job and life readiness curriculum to your students. To ensure you have a quality program, look for the following features:

- Hands-on learning to keep students engaged and teach real job skills
- Evidence-based with proven strategies that work
- Included assessments to measure student growth
- Academic integration to correlate to state standards

Discover how Project Discovery's comprehensive, hands-on, career kits include all of these features and more!



[LEARN MORE ABOUT PROJECT DISCOVERY](#)

PROUD TO BE A MODEL PROGRAM

As the publishers of Project Discovery, a National Dropout Prevention Center Model Program, we are passionate about increasing graduation rates and decreasing dropout rates for ALL students!

The National Dropout Prevention Network identifies Model Programs based on the program's ability to demonstrate usage of the NDPN's Effective Strategies for Dropout Prevention. Project Discovery uses many of these strategies, including:





Alternative
Schooling



Active
Learning



Professional
Development



Educational
Technology



Career &
Technical
Education



Individualized
Instruction



School &
Community
Collaboration

[LEARN MORE](#)

DROPOUT REDUCTION SUCCESS WITH PROJECT DISCOVERY

**Dropout
Reduced**

11%

Orange County
Orlando, FL

**Dropout
Reduced**

15%

Bradley County
Cleveland, TN

**Dropout
Reduced**

50%

Laurel Public Schools
Laurel, MT

[LEARN MORE](#)

OTHER ENDORSEMENTS OF PROJECT DISCOVERY INCLUDE:





LEARN MORE



Meet with Us

TO LEARN HOW TO REDUCE DROPOUT RATES IN
YOUR DISTRICT WITH PROJECT DISCOVERY

GET STARTED



WATCH HOW RED RIVER PARISH'S DROPOUT RATES
DRASTICALLY IMPROVED!



[\(1 minute video\)](#)

EXPLORE

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Education Associates | P.O. Box 23308, Louisville, KY 40223

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Sent by timothyhagan@educationassociates.com