The Student Engagement Project

Improving behavior & reducing exclusionary discipline
Improving graduation & reducing student dropout

Kansas Transition Coalition
Ask the Experts Webinar
December 11, 2014

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Purpose of this presentation

• Demonstrate materials which will assist schools to-

  • Create individual interventions for students
    • To reduce dropout and improve graduation rates
    • To reduce exclusionary discipline and improve student behavior

  • Develop “school improvement plans” which improve outcomes in these same areas
Who needs materials, and how would they be used?

- **Individual student planning**
  - School based teams (SAT; behavior teams; child study...)
  - Employ materials to brainstorm and plan individual student interventions
  - To assess research support for interventions

- **School improvement plan**
  - Assessing current interventions and supports
  - Using data to identify needs
  - Brainstorming possible supports to implement
  - Examining the evidence base for existing and proposed supports.

- **Technical assistance for State Department of Education**
  - Support schools which need assistance related to poor student outcomes.

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**Impetus for the Project**

- State identified the need
- Turned to the University of Nebraska for support
- Technical assistance from the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities available.
- Collaborative effort
Guiding Principles

- School-centered – school is focus
- Team-based decision making
- Identification of the evidence-base for strategies
  - Translating strategies into specific interventions and programs
- Integration with state and local systems
  - School improvement planning process
  - Individual student planning (SAT, PBIS, MTSS, etc.)
- Based on a three-tiered system of support
  - Tier 1 Prevention
    Interventions designed to prevent a problem from ever occurring (sometimes called primary prevention).
  - Tier 2 Prevention
    Interventions aimed to begin early once signs or symptoms have occurred in order to prevent the problem from becoming bigger or unmanageable (sometimes called secondary prevention).
  - Tier 3 Prevention
    (sometimes called tertiary prevention) is intended to attenuate the problems or effect of the problem while it is occurring even after the problem is chronic or severe.

School Process & Decision Making

- Reviewing School Data- Existing and New Sources
- Assessing Current Strengths and Weaknesses
- Identifying School Needs and Priorities

- School Based Teams, or
- Administrative Decisions & Priorities
- State & Federal Need for Data
School Process

- Identify evidence-based strategies which address school needs
- Identify specific evidence-based Interventions, programs or actions related to strategies at each Tier of intervention
- Implement and assess impact- Continuous improvement process

Process is compatible with the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities’ Prevention Intervention Framework

Guiding Principles- Tiered Intervention

- Tier 1: Whole school interventions
- Tier 2: Targeted interventions
- Tier 3: Intensive interventions

More labor intensive
More specialized
More costly
Two Frameworks for Action:

- Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- Restorative Justice Practices

Then, building specific strategies and practices onto these frameworks...

What is included?

Website for free statewide & national access: http://k12engagement.unl.edu

- Screening/Early Warning Briefs
- Strategy Briefs
- Program Briefs
- Resource Briefs
What is included?

Website for free statewide & national access: 
http://k12engagement.unl.edu

• Data Tools for each strategy brief (not yet available)

• Policy related Q & A

• News, Videos, and Policy information...added continuously

Creating a Positive Climate
Tier 1

Examples of Strategies
• Data systems in place
• Early warning screening for dropout and behavior
• Bullying prevention & Intervention
  • Climate & Environment
  • Conflict de-escalation
• Parent & family involvement in school
• Reinforcing positive behavior/ Positive office referrals
• School values statements/expectations
• Staff-student relationships
• Mediation programs
• School wide behavior programs
• And more...

Universal Supports- for all Tier 1 Interventions (for behavior & school completion)
Early Identification and Intervention
Tier 2

Examples of Strategies
• Academic supports & tutoring
• Anger management training
• Behavior contracting
• Bullying intervention programs for bullies
• Check and Connect program
• Check in/check out program
• Social skill instruction
• Middle to High School Transition
• Mentoring
• Restitution

Effective responses for troubled students
Tier 3

Examples of Strategies
• Alternative schooling
• Anger management programs
• School community collaboration
• Family group conferencing
• Functional assessment & behavior plans
• Program- Check and Connect
• Program - RENEW
• Discipline recovery programs
• Dropout recovery programs
• Wraparound
Tiered Intervention

1. Tier 1 - For All Students
2. Tier 2 - For At-Risk Students
3. Tier 3 - For Students in Severe/Chronic Difficulty

Anger Management

Middle to High School Transition

Restorative Practices
Materials from Dr. Beth Doll's federally funded project to assist educators to gather, analyze and interpret student behavior to choose and monitor interventions.
Bullying Policies

Summary

Bullying policies are common across the United States. Here are some questions and comments about bullying law.

List of Questions - Click any Question to Jump Straight to the Answer

- Is there a federal law which addresses bullying?
- Does Nebraska have a bullying law?
- How is bullying defined in Nebraska Law?
- How is bullying different from harassment under the law?
- Why did Nebraska pass a bullying law?
- What should be in a school's code of conduct as a result of the Bullying law?
- Do schools have to address bullying that is conducted off campus?
- Would sending bullying text messages while at school constitute bullying?
- If a student is caught bullying, what are the penalties under Nebraska law?
- Is one incident enough to constitute bullying?
- Where is more information available?

Is there a federal law which addresses bullying?

No. There is no federal law which specifically addresses bullying (stopbullying.org). However, if bullying overlaps with harassment, then there are Civil Rights laws that could apply to the situation. If the school does not adequately address the harassment situation, a federal law might be violated.

Does Nebraska have a bullying law?

Yes, such a law was passed in 2006. It requires each school district to have a policy on bullying. Many other states have also passed bullying legislation over the past several years.

List of all available briefs... new ones

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Example: **Attendance... (layered interventions)**

**Whole School**
- Create a culture of “Attending Every Day Matters!”
- Every absence brings a response
- Positive social incentives for good attendance
- Ongoing attendance tracking at teacher team meetings

**Targeted**

**Intensive**
- Daily one-on-one attention and problem solving; Check-in/Check-out; Reinforcement; Academic support; Social service or community support engaged; etc.
Example: **Behavior** ... (layered interventions)

**Whole School- examples**
- Identify school values / behavioral expectations
- Teach appropriate behavior in accord with expectations
- Increase reinforcement for appropriate behavior
- Increase parent involvement, etc.

**Targeted**
- 3 office referrals=Intervention; Assign a mentor
- Daily report cards for behavior- Check-in/ Check-out
- Behavioral contracts

**Intensive**
- Functional assessment & behavior intervention plan
- Anger management training; service coordination, etc.

Example: **Dropout** ... (layered interventions)

**Whole School**
- Create an engaging and caring school environment
- Focus on building motivation
- Increase parent & community involvement
- Create curriculum choices

**Targeted**
- Truancy prevention and intervention
- Specific academic supports; assign a mentor
- Counseling; work study alternatives

**Intensive**
- Develop alternative school programs
- Dropout recovery/ re-entry programs
Nebraska Department of Education re-engagement/dropout recovery projects currently operating in Ogallala, Kearney and Papillion-LaVista, Nebraska.

http://k12engagement.unl.edu

An example ...

Identifying Students at Risk

- Step 1 - Implement proactive school-wide Tier 1 prevention strategies
- Step 2 - Implement an early-warning system to identify student-level risk related to dropout
  - Which students are at the Medium, High or Ultra risk level?
  - What interventions are currently in place for these students? Which are/aren’t working?
  - What additional strategies or interventions might help?
### Matt Klare's NDPC-SD Risk Calculator Data Elements

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<td>Last name</td>
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<td>Number of times student was retained in grades K - 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Race / ethnicity (uses the new 7 codes)</td>
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<td>Lunch assistance? (0, RPL, FL)</td>
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<td>Number of different schools the student attended from K to present (0 to 10)</td>
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<td>Number of times the student has registered in a school (i.e., switched schools)</td>
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<td>Involved in a school club, sports, band, or choir in 8th grade? (No, Yes)</td>
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### Dropout Risk Calculator (Roster Report)

**Matthew Klare (2013)**

#### NDPC-SD 6th Grade Dropout Risk Calculator Report

**Middle School - All students at midyear of SY 2012-13**

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Strategies Identified by the School Team!

Three Tiers Of Intervention

Tier 1
- Identify expectations
- Reinforcement & positive referrals
- Middle to high school transition

Tier 2
- Academic support- homework club
- Parent involvement – contact w parents
- Extra positive reinforcement for at-risk

Tier 3
- Behavior monitoring
- Check and connect
- Middle to HS transition planning
- Truancy reduction program

How Will the Project Help?

- Identify assessment strategies (data gathering skills, instruments & procedures) related to these topics (lists, fact sheets & examples)
- Articulates specific evidence-based Interventions, programs or actions related to each strategy at each tier of intervention
- Organizes in website intervention strategies related to these topics keyed to assessment data (strategy briefs)
- Materials configured for easily accessible use by schools in a continuous improvement process and developing individual student plans
In summary, a work in progress...

Goals for the Project
- Increase graduation and reduce school dropout rates
- Reduce use of suspension and expulsion & increase non-exclusionary consequences.
- Assist schools in improving student behavior & to increase student engagement

Goals for the Strategy Briefs, Program Briefs, Resource Briefs:
- Support school based teams in developing individual plans for students within a three-tiered framework.
- Providing resources to assist teams with school improvement planning.

Questions and Discussion?

Http://k12engagement.unl.edu

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