

The Principal's Role in Dropout Prevention: Seven Key Principles

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Solutions
to the Dropout Crisis

Principle One: Identify Students Early

- Who are they?
- What does the data tell us?
- When do we identify a child at risk?
- Pyramid of intervention



Principle Two: Closely Examine New and Existing School Policies and Procedures

- How do your current policies/procedures impact your most vulnerable population?
- What data do you have on the impact of the policies and procedures on subgroups within your school?
- How could modifications in policies and procedures have a positive impact on the success of ALL students?



Principle Three: Build Strong Community Partnerships and Personalize Your School

- Engage key agencies, organizations, and businesses
- Create win-win partnerships
- Personalize by making relationships a priority
 - Extend contact time between students and adults
 - Looping and teaming



Principle Four: Reduce Social Isolation

- Exposure to opportunities
- Connect to the business community
 - Resources
 - Services
 - Internships
- Opportunities to serve



Principle Five: Manage Student Transitions

- From year to year
- From level to level
- Throughout the day
- Be proactive with transitions



Principle Six: Create Options and Implement Creative Interventions

- Both academic and nonacademic
- Looking at extending the time for students to complete graduation requirements
 - Menu of options
- Interventions must meet identified needs



Principle Seven: Building Parent/Family Relationships

- Overcommunicate
- Be proactive
- Work from the parents/family perspective



Developing a Plan

- Where are you now?
- Be data driven
- Be honest with yourself and your school community



Implementing the Seven Principles

- Do not try to do everything at once
- Look at multiple phases
- Start with an evaluation plan in mind—how will you measure success?
- Keep in mind the core values of your staff

