

DOINGWHATWORKS



PRESENTATION

3:52 min



Providing Support for Students Most At Risk

Jefferson Davis High School, Texas
April 2011

Topic DROPOUT PREVENTION

Practice ACADEMIC SUPPORTS

Highlights

- » Dropout prevention program leaders at Davis High School examine middle school performance, discipline, and attendance data to determine support program participation.
- » Program leaders match individual students with the appropriate support program based on academic and social service needs.
- » The support programs offer incentives for good performance, such as prom dresses, caps and gowns, and \$4,000 college scholarships.

About the Site Jefferson Davis High School
Houston, TX

Demographics:

- » 89% Hispanic
- » 10% Black
- » 1% White
- » 92% Free or Reduced-Price Lunch
- » 15% Special Education

(Houston Independent School District, District and School Profiles, 2009-10)

Jefferson Davis High School implements multiple strategies to ensure all students graduate fully prepared to pursue their postsecondary goals:

- » Staff use middle school student achievement and nonacademic outcome data to monitor students' progress toward graduation and postsecondary readiness, providing interventions for struggling students and those at risk
- » A ninth-grade mentoring program provides students with supportive adult relationships
- » Students can enroll in programs that provide tutoring, family support, college workshops, counseling, and dropout recovery success
- » To foster a sense of community among students, the school sets high expectations, holding students accountable, and celebrates their successes

Full Transcript



Slide 1: Welcome

Welcome to Providing Support for Students Most At Risk.



Slide 2: Meeting Ms. Medina-Schwartz and Ms. McKee

Hi, I'm Miriam Medina-Schwartz. I am the team leader of the College Access and Readiness team here at Davis High School in Houston, Texas.

My name is Casey McKee, and I am a project manager for a dropout prevention agency here at Davis High School.



Slide 3: Minimizing barriers to graduation

McKee: We have a series of services to help students minimize barriers to graduation. We try to appropriately match the students with the different support programs that we have on campus. So for some students, a very academic mentoring program would be a perfect fit

for their needs. But in some situations, it's more of a social service being, maybe, working on some counseling issues or some family relationship issues to get them the items that they need to succeed in school or be able to debrief the conversations that complicate their lives outside of school, thus affecting them in school.



Slide 4: Using data to focus on at-risk youth

Schwartz: All ninth graders entering Davis High School are eligible for these programs. We also focus on a certain group of students that come in. We look at the data from middle school. We look at the students that have been at risk at middle school. Research has shown that students that are at risk at middle school and are struggling with academic core subjects will continue that same pattern in the high school. So we try to prevent and intervene immediately when they come to our school. So what we do, we look at the data and we see which students are not being successful in ELA, or English, and math, and that's a certain group that we might focus on.

We also have the students that have discipline issues that we need to help immediately. And then we have the students with attendance problems. So there's three different elements. The way we engage a student in one of these programs is we either go directly to them. We say, "This is what we have noticed. We would like you to participate in this program. We can help you overcome these issues. We can connect you with the right people."



Slide 5: Counseling

McKee: An important piece of my job is that we are able to provide free on-site counseling, and we are able to have discussions with students, confidential discussions, to discuss the life events that are going on with them that may be prohibiting them from being as successful as possible in school.



Slide 6: Celebrations

Schwartz: Through our programs, we offer a \$4,000 scholarship. Each child at Davis High School is eligible for these \$4,000 scholarships. We offer free prom dresses through these programs. Another incentive that we have is giving them caps and gowns so that when they graduate they don't have to purchase them, and these incentives help them get through some of the hard times. They know that at the end of the tunnel, there will be some money waiting for them to go to college; they know that they will have a prom dress; they know they will have a graduation cap, even though they can't afford it, or a gown that we can provide for them through these incentives. All they have to do is come to school, stay in school, do well in school, and be part of the whole Davis college-bound culture. The programs have shown success. The data does show that students that have been going to our summer college institutes, there is a direct correlation that students will stay in school and will actually graduate.



Slide 7: Learn more

To learn more about Providing Support for Students Most At Risk, please explore the additional resources on the Doing What Works website.