# DOINGWHATW?RKS



#### Pathways to Success Organization and Content

Del Valle High School, Texas

Topic: Dropout Prevention Practice: Learning Environment

This presentation outlines the organization and content of Pathways to Success (PTS), a mandatory course in Del Valle High School's Freshman Academy. The course, which helps students gain the skills, behaviors, and understandings underpinning academic success, was launched in 2007 in response to the high course failure rate by freshmen.

School administrators who would like to develop a course like PTS can use this presentation to design its content and structure. To learn more about how Del Valle High School helps freshmen during this critical first year of high school, watch the multimedia piece *Preparing Students for Success Through the Freshman Academy*.

This project has been funded at least in part with Federal funds from the U.S. Department of Education under contract number ED-PEP-11-C-0068. The content of this publication does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Education nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.



Recognized Ca

### Del Valle High School Freshman Academy

*Implementing a Support System for 9<sup>th</sup> Graders* 

Del Valle Independent School District

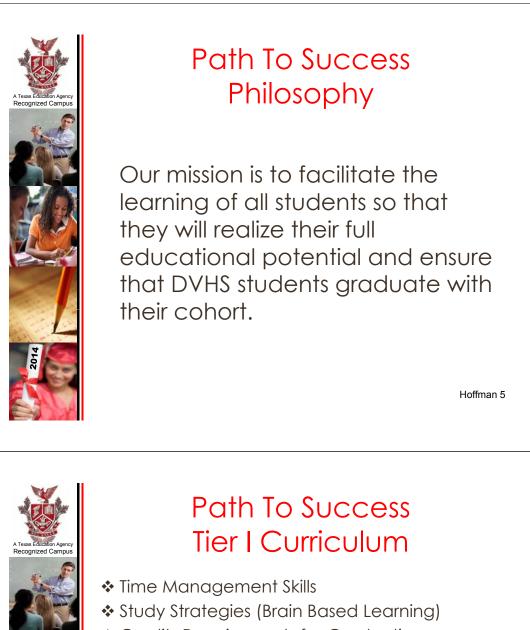
## Pathways To Success

Implementing a Tiered-Support System for 9<sup>th</sup> Graders

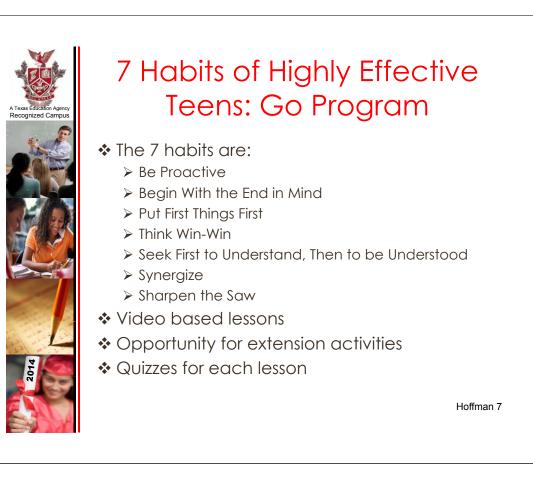
> Charles Hoffman RtI Department Chair



Daily elective course **<u>REQUIRED</u>** for all incoming freshman students with the goal of maintaining passing grades in <u>**ALL**</u> classes.



- ✤ Credits Requirements for Graduation
- Attendance Requirements
- Tutoring Expectations
- Organizational Strategies
- Transcript Lessons
- ✤ 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens Curriculum
- Academic Counselors Visits
- TAKS Pull Out Groups
- Dating Violence Curriculum

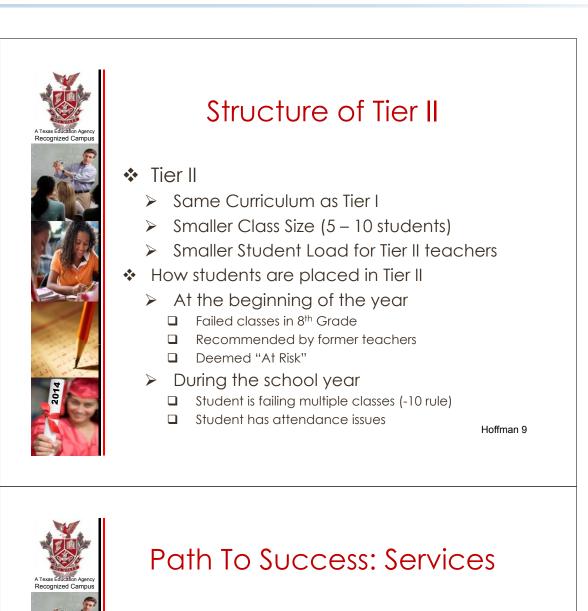




#### Structure of Tier 1 Classroom

- Monday: Print Grades & Individual Student Conferences
- Tuesday: Go Curriculum Lesson
- Wednesday: Extension Activity
- Thursday: Tutor Day
- Friday: Quiz / Binder and Agenda Check

Each Day students are given a minimum of 20-30 minutes to get work for other classes done



- Academic Counselor Visits
- Career Cruising
- Graduation Plan Development
- Attendance Administrator Visits
- Structured and Open Study
- Tutors
  - ➤ In Class and Tutoring Lab
  - University Students Tutor in high need subjects (mainly Algebra and Biology)



#### **PTS Interventions**

- I. Provide students with the necessary skills, tools, and resources to be successful both inside and outside the classroom.
  - PTS Curriculum
  - Print Grades and Track Progress
  - Assign Tutoring
  - Academic Interventions

Hoffman 11



#### **PTS Interventions**

- II. Reduce barriers to communication between teachers, students, and families.
  - PTS Teacher contact Parents
  - Grade Speed
  - Using translators for Spanish speaking parents
  - Encourage Core Teacher to contact parents
  - Database of scripts and form letters for communication
  - Face to Face Conferences with Parents
  - Academic Intervention Meetings (AIM)
  - Local Student Assistance Meeting (LST)
  - PTS Parent Night
  - School Messenger



#### **PTS Interventions**

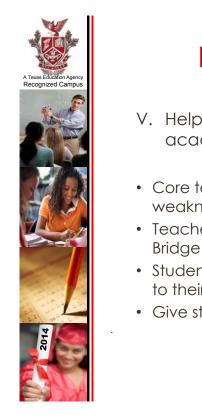
- III. Work collaboratively with classroom teachers to ensure that students are meeting the requirements in all courses.
  - Team meetings
  - Email
  - Informal conversations in the hallway
  - Provide teachers with strategies
  - Academic Interventions
  - Assign tutorials

Hoffman 13



#### **PTS Interventions**

- IV. Introduce or Collaborate with Core Teachers to develop proper interventions.
  - Provide teachers with a toolbox of interventions
  - Make teachers aware of what they are doing well
  - Show teachers how to be more effective
  - Don't tell teachers what to do
  - Have team teachers provide advice to other teachers on how to reach certain students
  - Approaching PTS teachers is an intervention: if both the PTS teacher and the core teacher need ideas, brainstorm ideas at a future team meeting.



#### **PTS Interventions**

- V. Help teachers determine students' academic weaknesses.
- Core teachers are rarely able to improve weaknesses during class time
- Teachers can refer students to Read 180 or Bridge to Algebra Support Classes
- Students with a specific weakness should go to their teacher for tutoring
- Give students prescriptive tutoring plan

Hoffman 15



#### **PTS Interventions**

- VI. Change the culture of "just passing"
  - Honor Roll Student celebrated
  - 80+ students
  - Teach students how to read/interpret their own transcript
  - Have upper classmen peers speak to similar populations
    - pre-National Honor Society (NHS) students
    - Former Tier II/III students speak to current Tier III
  - Teach the Importance of GPA
  - Use tutors as mentors

