



Social and Legal

November 1, 2008

Truancy

- School District (Relationship to Development, Motivation, Electives)
 - Attendance Officers
 - Teachers/Counselors
 - Interaction with parents
 - Administration
 - Dropout Prevention Programs
- Government Agencies
 - Probation
 - Drug and Alcohol Counseling
- Chamber of Commerce

Cultural Differences

- Acceptance
- Extended School Day
- Expectations
- Communication
- Relationship building
- School District with Community Programs
- Educators may not see the results

Gangs

- Encourage/lower dropout rate
- Sense of family provided by gang
- Membership
- Family status/availability
- Non-traditional settings

Family Separation

- School Distractions
- Student mobility (school to school)
- Nutrition
- Dropout to work
- Language barrier
- Parents don't value education/Lack of communication between parents and school
- Advance programs
- 9th grade mentors

- Teen leadership/Community Programs
- Teen Volunteer Opportunities
- Parenting classes for teen parents
- Community outreach
- Tutoring at apartments
- Night time activities for students to encourage participation
- Distractions at school
- Lack of proper nutrition
- Kids working to assist family income
- Unable to navigate the public school system
- Kids are never engaged in school – basic shuffle from class to class
- Once you get behind, its hard to catch up

Abuse

- Dropout factors: physical, emotional and neglect
- Noticing that students only receive support at school
- Thoughts of suicide among youth
- Bullying; cyber, physical, etc.
- Courses – Training teachers about topics Community and Polices
- Removal of unqualified educators
 - Creative relationships
 - Taking interest in students

Key Discussion Items

- Relationships - How do we create more opportunities to build relationships
- Lack of awareness of available resources (school, faith-based, community, etc.)
- Need for smaller more focused groups in and out of school
- Taking “drop out” out of the equation – not an option!
- Bridging gaps between private and public schools
- Communication issues, self esteem – How to let students know of a safe place to express concerns.
- Criteria differences – Some think its ok to dropout
- Parents are the KEY!
- After school programs
- Other Community Resources/Programs
- Resource availability (Access/Information)
- Family Engagement
- Church Affiliation and community involvement
- Professional learning community
- Vocational education

Issues

- Easy to dropout; then treated as a criminal
- Pre-K education for low income families
- Parent involvement – Parents are babies, illiterate, etc – first generation Americans
- Unplanned parenting (PEP)
- Purpose driven education (Why am I learning this?)
- State standards for TAKS preventing from moving to the next level

Resources/Assets

- Venture schools (VHS); Self paces school primarily for non traditional students

- GO Centers (Vocational training, etc)
- TCC, community colleges as partners
- College to Universities
- Community mentors
- Advisory programs
- Engage the Chamber of Commerce for career exploration

Strategies

- Career Foundation Academy for high school students
 - Managed by the Chamber of Commerce
- Ongoing collaboration with schools, agencies, etc. and follow-up and through (Our Community, Our Kids)
- Develop case plans for all students to ensure they are achieving their goals and milestones