Dropping Out is a Process, NOT an Event

Special Education in ND
State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)
State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

- US Department of Education – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (Federal Special Education Law)
- Every State MUST have a SSIP
- Continuous Improvement Process – Improve Results for Students with Disabilities

- Started 7 Years Ago
  - Stakeholders across ND – Determine ND’s Focus (SiMR)
  - Report Quarterly to this stakeholder group (IDEA Advisory Council)
ND’s SSIP Goal
State Identified Measurable Result (SiMR)

*Improve 6 Year Graduation Rates for Students identified as having an Emotional Disturbance*
Community Financial Impact of Dropping Out

$300,000 - $500,000 impact – 1 Dropout

For every 1% of Graduation Cohort who Drops Out ~ $25,000,000
(76 * $400,000 = $25,000,000 conservatively)

• Reduced Earning Power
• Reduced Spending Power
• Increased interaction with Community Systems

ND’s 4 Year Graduation Rate = 88%
Messaging

Dropping Out is a Process, NOT an Event
# We Know What Works

## 15 Effective Strategies for Dropout Prevention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundational Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★ Systemic Approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ School-Community Collaboration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ Safe Learning Environments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early Interventions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★ Family Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ Early Childhood Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ Early Literacy Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Core Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★ Mentoring/Tutoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ Service-Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ Alternative Schooling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ After-School/Out-of-School Opportunities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Managing and Improving Instruction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>★ Professional Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ Active Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ Educational Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ Individualized Instruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>★ Career and Technical Education (CTE)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vision: All students graduating CHOICE READY...

NDDPI Strategic Vision Framework

- Increase students who enter kindergarten prepared to learn
- Increase students who demonstrate reading proficiency in 3rd grade
- Increase students who meet expected learning gains each year
- Increase students who engage in learning
- Increase students who graduate choice ready
- Reduce the disparity in achievement for students in poverty and for Native American students

NDPC 15 Effective Strategies

Foundational Strategies
- Systemic Approach
- School-Community Collaboration
- Safe Learning Environments

Early Interventions
- Family Engagement
- Early Childhood Education
- Early Literacy Development

Basic Core Strategies
- Mentoring/Tutoring
- Service-Learning
- Alternative Schooling
- Afterschool/Out-of-School Opportunities

Managing and Improving Instruction
- Professional Development
- Active Learning
- Educational Technology
- Individualized Instruction
- Career and Technical Education (CTE)
Building and Leveraging Partnerships

• Partnerships Across the State
  • Public/Private partnerships
  • Public/Public partnerships

• Alignment Examples - (Time, Effort, Funding, Messaging, etc)
  • Agencies
  • Agency Offices
  • Field
  • Stakeholder groups
Mark Ehrmantraut
Regional Coordinator
NDDPI: Office of Special Education
(701) 328-2277
mehrmanntraut@nd.gov
COVID

• All Partners Working Hard – Fair amount of Stress (Schools and Families)

• Funding Partnerships and Supports

• Message from Our Office:
  • Communicate
  • Relationships / Trust
  • Good Faith Efforts
  • Individualization
  • Prior Written Notice (Communication)
  • Reconvene

• Students who need SEL support / Cognitive Support / Health Issues
  • Mask wearing / Physical interacting (OT/PT) / Telehealth / Attention Issues / Schedules (autism)

• Home Education Calls way up
COVID

• Formal Dispute Resolution Complaints right away
  • Needed to get the year started...???

• TA Calls
  • Parent / Advocacy
  • Directors / Leaders

• Students with most severe disabilities
  • Need physical interaction
  • SEL needs / engagement / Behavioral Health issues

• Dispute – Failure to Implement

• Webinars – very popular