Putting the Puzzle Together: Integrating Resources for a Comprehensive Dropout Prevention Program

Diane Stulz
Coordinator of Instruction
Worcester County Public Schools
WCPS
Student Demographics

- **6,745** Total Students in Grades Pre-K though 12
  - Am. Indian/ AK Native **30**
  - African American **1,564**
  - Asian/Pac. Islander **103**
  - White **4,797**
  - Hispanic **251**
- Male **3,454** Female **3,291**
- ELL **189**

- **14 Schools**
  - 5 Elementary Schools
  - 1 Intermediate School
  - 3 Middle Schools
  - 3 Comprehensive High Schools
  - 1 Technical High School
  - 1 Special School

- Three Areas: Northern, Central, Southern
Worcester County Dropout Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Satisfactory Rate</th>
<th>Worcester County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Special Education Subgroup

Dropout Rate: Grades 9-12

--- = state satisfactory standard of 3.00% or less

Special Education  Regular Education
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Special Education Dropouts/Total</th>
<th>Regular Education Dropouts/Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009 (Preliminary)</td>
<td>4/210</td>
<td>22/2727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>6/234</td>
<td>29/2121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1/245</td>
<td>20/2212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>0/203</td>
<td>31/2221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>0/228</td>
<td>51/2215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>7/278</td>
<td>42/2024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dropout Prevention Begins in Kindergarten

- Creating a sense of belonging
- Creating a sense of respect for learning, for our environment and for each other
- Creating positive attitudes and dispositions
- Creating a sense of competency
JOB DESCRIPTION:
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

- Arrive on time and attend school every day
- Be a good citizen
- Understand and demonstrate mastery of curriculum in all courses
- Collaborate with peers and teachers to complete tasks
- Interpret results from class assessments to improve performance in courses
- Understand High School Graduation Requirements and develop an individualized learning plan to meet these requirements
- Assist guidance counselors with class scheduling
- Pass the HSA's (or other exit exams)
- Involve your parents in your education
- Complete employment, college, and scholarship applications
- Schedule study time, extra curricular activities, employment, and service learning activities in an efficient manner to allow for a social life
- Decide what you are going to do for the rest of your life
People Make the Difference!

• Superintendent
• In the School
  – Teachers
  – Administrators
  – Other School Staff
  – Parents
• In the District
  – Student Services Specialists
  – Central Office Staff
• In the Community
  – Health Department
  – Juvenile Services
  – Drug Court
  – Truancy Court
  – Social Services
  – Employers
Dropout Prevention and Recovery Program

- Special Education/ELL Programs
- Individualized Graduation Completion Plans
- Student Services Specialists
- Pupil Services Teams
- Alternative Programs
- Credit Recovery Program
- Night School Program
- Worcester County Health Dept. Counselors
- Extra Curricular Activities
- PBIS
- Mentoring
- Just for Girls/Just for Guys
- After School Academies
- Worcester Technical High School Programs
- Internship/Employment Experience Programs
- Summer Employment
- Summer School Programs
- GED
- Drug Court
- Truancy Court
Reclaiming Dropouts – Our Forgotten Students

• Require exit meetings for all students who are considering dropping out of school (create Graduation Completion Plan at this time)
• Maintain contact with dropouts
• Provide opportunities for dropouts to return to school
• Disseminate information regarding GED program availability
• Discussion options: Job Corps, Community College, National Guard Challenge Academy, etc.
Why Create a Graduation Completion Plan?

- Comprehensive plan based upon individual student’s needs
- Identify student needs
- Determine available services
- Identify “gaps” in services
- Leverage funding
- Utilize community resources to their fullest extent.
What Purpose Does a Graduation Completion Plan Serve?

- Creates a paradigm shift from “dropout prevention” to “graduation completion.”
- Provides a means to develop seamless, wrap-around services to students to assist them in developing the skills necessary to meet success.
- Utilizes services currently available to provide the most cost effective means to meet the needs of children.
- Instills hope for students and parents that graduation is attainable
Funding

- Local Funding
- Bridge to Excellence (State Funding)
- Workforce Investment Act (Youth Employment)
- 21st Century Learning Centers
- Service Learning
- Title III
- Title I (3 elementary schools)
- American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA)
  - Summer Youth Employment
  - Special Education
Graduation Rate – The Real Deal

Satisfactory Rate

Worcester County

What Graduation Completion Looks Like

• Saday
• Ryan
• Amanda
• Mike
“It is good to have an end to journey toward, but it is the journey that matters in the end.”

-Ursula K. LeGuin

dlstulz@mail.worcester.k12.md.us