

Dropout Prevention, Recovery and Pathways to Postsecondary

A Review of Research and Policy

Dropout prevention: Effective Practice

- Importance of leadership placing priority on addressing needs of struggling students
- Multiple strategies that persist over time & through all grades
- More than academics; social-emotional supports

Dropout prevention: Policy Milestones

- Online credit recovery options for off-track seniors: partnerships with CBOs for case management
- Introduction of Early Warning Indicators
- Pregnant and parenting teens policies
- Dropout Prevention and Recovery Act; introduces new graduation rate methods and creates Commission

3

Re-engaging youth: Effective Practice

- Maintain a focus on future after high school
- Allow individualized and flexible academic programs
- Needs-based support is key; but lacking systematic approaches
- Inflexible credit and MCAS policies discourage students

4

Re-engaging youth: Policy Milestones

- Policy on re-engagement and enrollment
- Reengagement Center, evolves into a national practice exemplar
- Newcomer Academy
- Evolution of role of community-based organizations/providers with BPS

5

Alternative Education: Effective Practice

- Localized approach; small, but diverse, student population
- Comprehensive referral process
- Data-driven decision-making stretches beyond academic data
- Focus on students' and their educational needs and challenges

6

Creating pathways for Opportunity Youth: Effective Practice

- Postsecondary transition is underdeveloped
- Accessible wraparound support is key
- Inconsistent financial support undermines program continuation
- Adopt a human capital strategy that includes diverse, well-prepared staff

7

Questions?

www.renniecenter.org

Jennifer Poulos
jpoulos@renniecenter.org
617.354.0002, ext 3

8