

SHB 1573: Building Bridges

Dropout Prevention, Intervention, and Retrieval

House Education Committee

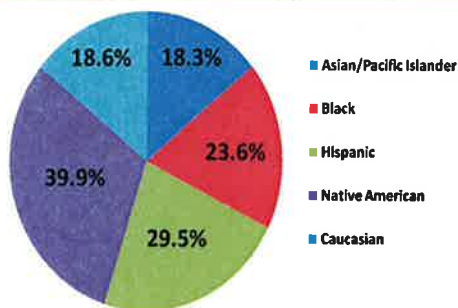
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
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Graduation and Dropout Rates WA State Summary

	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
On Time Graduation	70.1%	74.3%	70.4%	72.5%
Extended Graduation	74.3%	79.3%	75.1%	77.5%
Annual Dropout Rate	5.8%	5.1%	5.7%	5.5%
Est. 4 Year Cohort Dropout Rate	21.5%	19.1%	21.4%	21.0%

06-07 Dropout Rates By Ethnicity



Risk Factors

- Poor attendance/ academic performance, repeating one or more grades, and truancy
- Social and health related issues
- Significant number of family moves
- High numbers of detentions/suspensions
- Conflict or lack of involvement between home and school culture
- Mental health-drug/alcohol issues



What Youth Say

Non- academic:

- Boredom
- Low expectations of adults
- Assuming adult responsibilities
- Missed too much school to catch up

Academic:

- Academically unprepared for high school
- Repeating a grade

** Silent Epidemic: Perspectives of High School Dropouts, March 2006



SHB1573: Building Bridges

Two Main Components:

- Grant program
- State Level Workgroup

Priority Student Populations:

- Foster care
- Juvenile justice
- Special education
- Dropouts



Building Bridges Program Locations



WSU Evaluation*

Building Bridges has been effective in:

- Selecting a broad base of programs capable of testing important models with key at-risk populations
- Forging community partnerships in support of school-based interventions
- Reaching populations with significant known dropout risk
- Aligning programs models with the dropout intervention literature

* first 9 months of operation thru September 2008



BUILDING BRIDGES WORKGROUP

Building Bridges Workgroup

Purpose: To develop recommendations regarding state policies, best practices and necessary resources to support the following:

- A measurable reduction in the dropout rate, an increase in the on time graduation rate and the successful re-entry and achievement of students who have dropped out of school.
- The development of partnerships at the state and local level to build a sustainable and comprehensive statewide dropout prevention, intervention and retrieval system.

Three Systemic Initiatives: Priority Recommendations

1. Establish a statewide goal for reducing dropouts and develop a coordinated system of cross-agency supports at the state and local level to achieve that goal;
2. Build the resources and systems needed by school districts to plan and develop comprehensive, culturally relevant dropout prevention and intervention programs and activities; and
3. Create a dropout retrieval system which provides a meaningful career pathway option for students who have dropped out and are not likely to return to the K-12 school system.

Statutory Goal

1.1: Set a statutory goal, including targets for reducing disproportionality, to address the dropout problem as follows:

- A: Establish a 2015 target, for the percentage of students that will graduate from high school; and
- B: Establish a 2015 target for the percentage of youth who have dropped out to reengage in education and be college and work ready.

Systems Collaboration

1.2 Direct state agencies that provide major programs for at-risk youth and dropouts to develop programmatic objectives and measures to help meet the state dropout goals and to work together to achieve those goals.

Specifically, the Legislature should direct state agencies to provide:

- A:** Protocols and templates for model agreements on sharing records and data to improve outcomes for at-risk youth; and
- B:** Professional development within existing resources that informs staff about the latest research in working with at-risk youth and provides knowledge about programs and services for such youth.

Local Dropout Systems and Practices

2.1: At a minimum, funding for the Building Bridges Program should continue at the current level (\$5 million) in the 2009-2011 Biennium.

Legislative enhancements to public education should include basic education funding for:

- 2.2:** School districts to develop and use quality data in order to implement and maintain early warning data systems, as developed by OSPI, that analyze school and district dropout patterns and provide in-time student progress monitoring
- 2.3:** Programs and support systems that motivate students and address academic and non-academic barriers to learning

Retrieval System

3.1: Establish a statewide dropout retrieval system with programmatic goals for students to make significant basic skill gains, complete a high school credential, gain college and work readiness skills, and obtain an industry credential or certificate.

3.2: Develop a single, comprehensive regulatory framework to guide and govern dropout retrieval programs.

3.3: Establish the authority for regional partnerships to design services for 16 to 21 year old youth who have dropped out and are not likely to return to high school and identify a lead agency to contract for such services.

OSPI

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