

High School Drop Outs: Causes and Preventions

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During High School, there are many different stressors that make this time of any person's life very difficult. Many people believe it is the best time of their lives; however, there are a few people who believe it is the worst time of their lives. High School is when people are finally being seen as adults and given some serious responsibilities. Nonetheless, many High School students are given way more adult responsibility than they should at this stage in their lives. Although this is something that is very difficult to change, it is important to find out different, creative, and flexible ways to give these students the extra resources so they can complete High School and earn their diploma like they deserve.

Before creating a solution to decrease dropout rates, it is important to understand the immediate reasons students drop out in the first place. Each student is put into different circumstances, so it is tough to categorize these reasons. With that in mind, finding out these major causes is a must. Three of the dominant causes include family economic needs, academic performances, and learning and physical disabilities.

Children who grow up in low income families have a higher chance of dropping out than middle and high income families (Lynch, 2003). According to Lynch, low income children drop out 2.4 times more than middle class students and over 10 times more than higher class students. This is because most children are expected to work as soon as they get the opportunity to. Sometimes, the only way to survive is to have every eligible member of the family work. Therefore, when children are old enough to drop out of school and begin work, that is what they will do.

Another factor that causes students to drop out of high school is performing poorly in academics (Azzam, 2007). In third grade, students begin to "read to learn" rather than "learn to

read,” which causes a great deal of boredom for these young children. In fact, 47 percent of students who drop out of school say it is because they are bored. If a child is forced to sit at school day after day and year after year without any enjoyment, he or she is likely to get out as soon as he or she can. Along with that, many students who receive poor grades have low self-esteem towards their intelligence and would rather drop out than be more embarrassed by their poor grades.

The third factor is an extremely sad cause of high school drop outs: disabilities (Lynch, 2003). This cause comes with an eye opening statistic: 36 percent of students who have a learning or physical disability drop out of high school. Without the extra help, it is extremely difficult for people who have disabilities to learn many subjects. This becomes a major issue in urban schools with a large population of students with disabilities and a shortage in staff. In these schools, children who have disabilities or learning impairments do not get the one on one help they need and eventually, they just drop out.

With knowledge of the major reasons students drop out, prevention methods must be put into place. The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network gives amazing strategies to effectively prevent students from dropping out (NDPC/N, 2015). To prevent students from dropping out in the long term, early interventions are very useful. Early Childhood Education and early literacy development help enhance brain development and effectively get students to understand material early on so they do not fall behind and suffer from poor academics.

Basic core strategies are very common and helpful options. They include mentoring, which is giving students a trusting relationship and tutoring, which is helping students who are struggling with certain academics. Service learning is when students are engaged in community service experiences, which develops students’ social and personal growth, civic responsibility,

and career development. Alternative schooling is another choice where students receive the different options they have to graduate and acquire special attention for their academic needs. A very common basic core strategy involves after school opportunities, in which students stay after school and in the summer for extra enhancement to eliminate information loss and gain more interest.

Teachers can also play a huge part in drop out prevention with their teaching strategies. Students benefit from professional development activities where they develop techniques and innovative strategies. Students who declare they are bored at school would prosper from active learning because they will be engaged with hands on learning that is fun and educational. This would be a kind of brain-based learning because it increases the brains ability to retain information by letting students experience new information by using hands on techniques. For students who do not plan on going to college and are going to work after school, whether they are opening a business or working for the family farm, would do well with career and technical education. This is where they learn information about the job they are planning on going into. Lastly, an extremely important method for these students includes individualized instruction, which gives students one on one instruction for the classes they struggle with. Not only do they understand the information better with this method, but they also get the sense that someone actually does care about them and their education.

In conclusion, the majority of students drop out of school because of family economic needs, academic performances, and disabilities. It is immensely important to discover the reason for each student and address that issue before he or she has no other option, except to drop out. Understanding each student's individual needs and giving them the education they deserve is a must and will benefit them and our nation in the future.

References

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