

Transitioning Students to High School

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Workshop Objectives

- Gain a better understanding of psychological and social development of freshmen students
- Gain knowledge on how to plan a comprehensive summer bridge program.
- Increase knowledge on how to better meet the needs of students and parents.

Transition Defined

- The act of **passing** from one state or place to the next
- An event that results in a **transformation**
- A **change** from one place or state or subject or stage to another
- **Moving** from one point to another

Transition Points for H.S. Students

- Freshmen year
- High school graduation
- Entry into higher education or workforce

The Situation

The Perfect Storm

- There are three forces that are converging upon us,
 - demographics
 - technology
 - globalization

What is going on?

- 90% of the fastest growing jobs in the nation will require some postsecondary education (USDE, 2006)
- 19% of adults in North Carolina do not have a high school diploma (National Center for Public Policy & Higher Education, 2006).
- 60% of employers rate students' basic job skills as “fair” or “poor” in North Carolina (American Diploma Project NC, 2006).

What Graduates are Saying!

As many as 40% of high school graduates believe that there are gaps between the education that they received and in high school and the overall skills, abilities, and work habits that are expected of them in college and the workforce (Peter D. hart Research Associates, 2005).

State of Freshmen Transitions

Transitioning into HS

- Transition into high school is associated with a decrease in:
 - social support
 - academic functioning: grades, school attendance, academic motivation
 - mental health functioning: increased depression, delinquency, and substance abuse
- Transition is also associated with an increase in:
 - academic stressors
 - social stressors (Hussong, 2007)

Factors that Contribute to at-risk levels

- Socioeconomic
- Psychosocial stressors (divorce, death, loss of income)
- School attending
- Relationship with parents

Success or Failure?

- Success or failure during the 9th grade year often sets the tone for a student's entire high school career
- If a student is successful during their 9th grade year, there is likelihood that the student will graduate and enjoy their high school experience (Silverthorn, 2005)
- There is a heightened risk of school-drop out related to negative educational experiences (Hussong, 2007)

Student Perspective

- 9th grade students worry about their experience transitioning to high school and some view it as difficult
- 9th grade students are primarily concerned with an increased workload, difficulty of classes and getting lost at school
- 9th grade student report that academic and social changes, and feeling disconnected from school were the most difficult aspects of the transition process
- 9th grade students tend to report liking high school less than middle school

Good Characteristics of a Transition Program

- A high school transition program includes a variety of activities that:
 - (1) provide students and parents with information about the new school
 - (2) provide students with social support during the transition, and
 - (3) bring middle school and high school personnel together to learn about one another's curriculum and requirements.

Freshmen Support

- Academically
- Emotionally
- Socially

2011 Freshman Student

- They have no meaningful recollection of the Reagan Era and probably did not know he had ever been shot.
- Bottle caps have always been screw off and plastic.
- Atari predates them, as do vinyl albums.
- The statement "You sound like a broken record" means nothing to them.
- They have never owned a record player.
- MTV and BET has always existed.
- They may have never heard of an 8 track.
- They have always had an answering machine.
- Most have never seen a TV set with only 13 channels, nor have they seen a black and white TV.
- They cannot fathom not having a remote control.
- They don't know what a cloth baby diaper is, or know about the "Help me, I've fallen and I can't get up" commercial.

New Generation



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