

Teen Success Summit Youth Workshops Ideas to Increase the Graduation Rate

STEP 1 Brainstorm ideas

What are five reasons you feel could cause yourself or other students to dropout of school?

Reasons students drop out of school	How do these reasons increase the dropout rate?
<p>Academic Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers who do not care about students • Only being prepared to take TAKS • Not being prepared for college 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who do not feel accepted by their teachers and/or feel judged by their teachers are at a greater risk of dropping out. • Students don't feel as if there is any real learning-taking place in their classrooms, which may cause them to be bored. • Student stress the fact that they are not being prepared to go to college in the classroom, and because of that they don't really spend to much time planning for their future, which causes some of them to drop out all together.
<p>School/Discipline and Safety Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers not trained • Student bored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student feel that a lot of their teachers aren't prepared to handle student's with disciplinary problems, thus leaving the classroom in chaos. Student's that want to learn constantly forced to have to wait for teacher to get control of the classroom, which rarely happens. • Students feel that there are better things to do with their time, since they aren't learning anyways.
<p>Student Safety Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence on campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students from varies schools said that some of their peers don't come to school for fear of getting into a fight. • Students also said that there is a lot of gang activity going on at their schools.
<p>Lack of Respect (between students and teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School does follow up • Teachers showing favoritism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students said that teachers only helped out the students that they liked for whatever reason. • Students said that dropping out is easy, and that the schools don't follow up on the students to see if they anything may be wrong.
<p>Student Personal Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends • Apathetic • Lazy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students said that the need to hang out with their friends was overwhelming at time, and since they felt no real connection with the school or any one in it, they just leave. • Students don't show any interest in school, because they say they are bored, and that they don't see how what is being taught in class relates to their life. • Students said because of the laziness of themselves or their peers,

they fall behind, and aren't able to catch up.

STEP 2 Name five recommendations you or your school or your community could do which would help solve some of the above problems and increase the graduation rate?

Recommendations	How would it increase the graduation rate?
More understanding teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students want their teachers to be more understanding and to listen to them.• Have more class discussion about real life issues that students go through.
Student Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students feel that schools should do more to for students that drop out. Like for instance to call them and follow up on them to see why they may have left, and what the school could do to help fix the problem.
More student appreciation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students feel that faculty and staff should devote more time to the students as a whole, and not just determining who they are based on a test.•
Show respect to all	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students express wanted to be treated with respect, they also believe that they have the right to be treated equal with their peers and that no one should be shown favoritism.

STEP 4 Put your recommendations into a creative format.

Your co-facilitators will help you express one or more of your recommendations in one of the six following ways: On t-shirt or button, through a short video, in an improvisational theater skit, through a spoken word or hip-hop piece, through a mural, or through youth organizing.

With the help of one of our facilitators students where lead in a short mural stencil presentation. After being show some secrets of shading and filling in, students got the opportunity to make some drawings to express what they thought about the drop out epidemic and how to decrease it. During this time other students joined in with the facilitator to put the finishing touches on the mural that was used in the presentation.