The Principal’s Role in Dropout Prevention: Seven Key Principles
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Principle One: Identify Students Early

- Who are they?
- What does the data tell us?
- When do we identify a child at risk?
- Pyramid of intervention
Principle Two: Closely Examine New and Existing School Policies and Procedures

• How do your current policies/procedures impact your most vulnerable population?
• What data do you have on the impact of the policies and procedures on subgroups within your school?
• How could modifications in policies and procedures have a positive impact on the success of ALL students?
Principle Three: Build Strong Community Partnerships and Personalize Your School

• Engage key agencies, organizations, and businesses
• Create win-win partnerships
• Personalize by making relationships a priority
  – Extend contact time between students and adults
    • Looping and teaming
Principle Four: Reduce Social Isolation

• Exposure to opportunities
• Connect to the business community
  – Resources
  – Services
  – Internships
• Opportunities to serve
Principle Five: Manage Student Transitions

- From year to year
- From level to level
- Throughout the day
- Be proactive with transitions
Principle Six: Create Options and Implement Creative Interventions

- Both academic and nonacademic
- Looking at extending the time for students to complete graduation requirements
  - Menu of options
- Interventions must meet identified needs
Principle Seven: Building Parent/Family Relationships

• Overcommunicate
• Be proactive
• Work from the parents/family perspective
Developing a Plan

• Where are you now?
• Be data driven
• Be honest with yourself and your school community
Implementing the Seven Principles

• Do not try to do everything at once
• Look at multiple phases
• Start with an evaluation plan in mind—how will you measure success?
• Keep in mind the core values of your staff