Policies and Practices Related to Student Failure and Dropping Out: Tools and Resources

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Two Sides to the Story

• Challenges Children Bring to School
• What Schools Do to Contribute to Failure
Identifying Negative Policies and Practices

• Self Review Process
  – Teachers
  – Principals
  – Parents
  – Students
  – Service Agencies/Organizations
Self Review Tool

• Policies and Practices Related to Student Failure and Dropping Out

– www.iaae.net (Under Alternative School Improvement)
Top Ten Student Concerns

- Teacher lecturing
- No adjustment to learning style
- Lack of interest in student attendance
- Lack of belonging
- Overwhelming homework
Top Ten Student Concerns

• Lack of rewards
• Lack of caring about student work
• Little individual help
• Overwhelming full schedule of classes
• Unfair punishment
Involving Children and Youth To Help

• Four Key Questions For Action Research
  – What do teachers do that makes a good day for you at school?
  – What happens in school that gives you the feeling you have accomplished something?
  – What happens in school that makes it a good day for you with classmates?
  – What happens in school that makes it a good day with friends?
Basic Beliefs of Staff

• A Framework for Learning Alternative Environments in Iowa

  – www.iaae.net (Under Alternative School Improvement)
Program Improvement Self Review/Peer Review

• Quality Indicators

  • www.iaae.net (Under Alternative School Improvement)
Student Progress

- Student Learner Progress Flowchart

  - www.iaae.net (Under Alternative School Improvement)
The Role of School

• Staff X-Ray
  – Is your role informing or transforming?
  – Is your mind-set that all students are teachable?
  – Does the mind-set of your students match yours?

  – [www.garyphillips.com](http://www.garyphillips.com) (National School Improvement Project)