IDRA’s Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program
Successful Dropout Prevention

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A cross-age tutoring program

An opportunity for middle school and high school students who are at risk of dropping out to tutor younger students.

Tutors are supported as Valued Youth making a contribution.
Research Based

Identified as one of only two dropout prevention programs in the country that meet high standards, rigorous evaluation and evidence of effectiveness.

Show Me the Evidence!
Proven and Promising Programs for America’s Schools

(Slavin and Fashola)
Research Based

• Since 1984, the Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program has...
  
  – Maintained a dropout rate of less than 2 percent.
  – Kept more than 30,600 students in school, young people who were previously considered at risk of dropping out.
  – Positively impacted the lives of more than 690,000 children, families and educators.
All children are valuable, None is expendable.
Tutoring Sessions

- Four hours weekly
- Hourly stipend and academic credit
- Four grade level difference between tutor and tutee
- Supervision by committed receiving teachers
- Committed receiving teachers provide supervision
- Planned instructional tasks within classroom
Classes for Tutors

- Weekly sessions
- Planning for tutoring
- Student-centered instruction
Field Trips

- Three per school year
- Learning opportunities
- Minimum expense for tutors

Role Models

- Guest speakers
- School personnel
- Parents
- Community leaders
Student Recognition

- Tutors valued throughout year
- End-of-year event
- Tutor of the year
- Publicity and visibility
Curriculum

• Literacy skills
• Tutoring skills
• Self-concept

Coordination

• Team approach
• School-district agreement and support
• Planned and structured design
• Periodic meetings
Family Involvement

- Parent consent and support
- Family activities based on needs and interests
Staff Enrichment

- Awareness
- Skills Development
- Application
- Support

- Implementation team
- Community and parents
- Other school personnel
Evaluation

Qualitative & Quantitative → Monitor Tutoring → Periodic Feedback → Pre-post Design → Decision Making
What We Have Learned

Continuities: Lessons for the Future of Education from the IDRA Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program
What We Have Learned

1. Valuing Youth Works.
If you provide young people with an opportunity to contribute – to themselves, their families, their communities – they will.

2. Local Ownership is Key.
To scale up and replicate success requires holding fast to essentials while adapting to local contexts.
What We Have Learned

3. School Leadership Sets the Tone.
To squarely take on attrition, school leaders must inspire innovation, embody engagement, and incorporate actionable knowledge.

4. Realizing the Power of One + One + One.
All students must have at least one caring adult in their lives at school and a reason to care.
What We Have Learned

5. Family and Community Engagement is Essential. The school-family-community triad is at the heart of holding on to students and ensuring their success.

6. Success Demands Well-Defined Partnerships. When roles are clear and each partner contributes from its unique strengths, a multi-sector collaboration can reap dramatic results.
7. Structure and Innovation Sustains Impact.
Transformative impact demands sustained structures, resources and a commitment to valuing all youth.
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Creating schools that work for all children