

Pre-Freshman Summer Transition Program

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Key words: at-risk, rising freshman, transition program, summer program

Funding Sources:

School budget and community partners

Project Cost and Budget Narrative:

Overall Budget - \$5,650 Supplies - \$1,500 Breakfast/Lunch - \$650 Staffing - \$2,000
Transportation - \$1,500

Project Description:

The Pre-Freshman Summer Transition Program is designed to assist rising freshman who are labeled as at-risk to transition into high school with strategies and mentoring relationships. These rising at-risk freshman are labeled in order to track these students. The program is a three-day program working on skills and strategies such as decision-making and conflict resolution, social skills, career exploration, study skills, and mentoring relationships. Attached are supporting documents.

Staffing Pattern:

Guest Speakers, including Community Partners (Police Officers, Fraternities & Sororities, etc.), Graduation Coaches (3), Teachers (2), Summer Administrator (1), and Guidance Counselors (4).

Population Served:

Students labeled as at-risk due to attendance, behavior, and course failure. In addition, students labeled as economically disadvantaged, alternative education students, and over-aged rising freshman. Gear Up Students as student mentors (25), at-risk pre-freshman (75).

Project Origination:

Program originated based on the need to provide mentoring for rising freshman who have the potential of being unsuccessful in the high school setting and are at risk of dropping out due to being labeled as “at-risk” because of attendance, behavior, and course failure.

Issues Addressed:

Students who are labeled as “at-risk” due to attendance, behavior, and course failure are at a higher risk of not graduating on time, or even possibly dropping out of school all together. This program is designed to allow mentoring and strategic practices to be implemented to assist students with challenges they may face in the high school setting.

Desired Outcomes and Measurable Objectives:

The desired outcomes are increase in on-time graduation and a reduction of dropouts. Additionally, the numbers of course failures, behavioral referrals, and truancy decrease.

Results (Outcomes and Achievements):

The proposed summer program has not been implemented yet. The anticipated execution date was postponed one year due to funding and planning.

Strategies and/or Interventions:

The summer transition program will include social, academic, and personal focuses to ensure success and growth of the “whole child”.

Project Timeline:

Planning – 1 year in advance. Execution – 3 days

Special Conditions and/or Expertise Required to Carry Out the Project:

- There needs to be a way to target and select students who are at risk.
- Knowledge of community partners who are able to come in and speak on necessary topics in order to assist students with academic and behavioral success.
- Ability to strategically plan and assign mentor/mentees so that the relationship is positive and ensures student compatibility.

Outcomes Related to School Completion, Dropout Prevention, and/or Graduation Rates:

The outcomes would increase on-time graduation and overall GCI (Graduation Composite Index). Additionally, there would be a reduction of student dropouts.

Current Status of Project:

The Pre-Freshman Summer Transition Program is still in the planning phase of execution. The plan was to execute the program in August 2018. However, due to budgeting and planning the program was pushed back and is scheduled for implementation in August 2019.

Role in Project as a NDPS Certification Program Participant:

My role and involvement with the project was complete organization and presentation of the project. I worked with the Assistant Superintendent with planning, staffing, and budgeting. The Assistant Superintendent presented the Superintendent with the program proposal.

Lessons Learned:

The program, even though it has not been implemented yet, the planning and design process takes longer than I anticipated. The organization of all guest speakers, community partners and organization of the selection process was lengthy and more in-depth than I thought when beginning this project.

Advice for Dropout Prevention Practitioners about the Project:

When taking on any project, make sure you have support from all the essential support staff as well as community stakeholders. Any project tasks more than just one person to execute. The more people and personal backing your project the quicker your project will be approved.