

# Strategic Planning to Improve the Graduation Rate

## Fargo Public Schools Timeline

### 2003-2004

- Staff recognition of problem
- Community response to substance use/abuse by parents/students
- Dropout prevention task force

### 2004-2005

- Fulltime dropout prevention coordinator
  - Communication/coordination between grades and schools
  - Communication/coordination between school system and courts and agencies
- Trained dropout prevention coordinator at each school
- Early and continual reading emphasis and remediation as needed
- Early identification of risk, including preschool
- Early, regular, communication with families
  - Resources for families – Community, curriculum, parenting, counseling
- Academic support at school
- Evening classes
- Early, intense counseling – First grade meetings with counselors
- Connection with an adult at school/Mentoring
- Community task force to coordinate services to at-risk youth

## 2005-2006

- Teacher training
  - Interventions for at-risk students
  - Active, engaged, learner-centered classrooms
  - Varied teaching and learning styles
  - Student-focused, positive, respectful student management
  - Content relevance
- After-school programs
- High School alternative programs
  - In-school support
  - School-within-a-school
  - Separate alternatives
    - Independent study
    - Therapeutic
- Suspension alternatives
- Computer-assisted instruction and online courses
- Well-planned transitions (grade to grade, school to school)

## 2006-2007

- Small learning communities
- Freshman academy program as a transition strategy for ninth graders
- Varied scheduling formats/Time alternatives
- Elementary alternative program
  - In-school support

- Middle School alternative program
  - In-school support
- Alternatives to retention

#### 2007-2008

- Community Attendance Review Board
- Alternative Education Standards and Benchmarks
- Grading policy and practices
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade alternative program
- Middle School alternative program
  - School-within-a-school

#### 2008-2009

- Native American plan
- Dropout retrieval plan
- Changes in alternative high school delivery
- Cooperation with United Way dropout prevention initiative
- Competency-based credit