

STRANDS

2016 National Forum on Dropout Prevention for Native & Tribal Communities

Addressing the Opportunity Gap

Research has been accumulating for years that show us that the achievement gap is embedded in the opportunity gap. While there has been much focus over the last 30 years on closing the achievement gap, little has occurred to diminish it. We now know that we will not close the achievement gap until we address the opportunity gap. Students must have opportunities to learn no matter what their background is. The good news is: There are many exciting and engaging ways to build the capacity for these opportunities for students to learn. These sessions will explore some of these options and offer practical solutions that communities can implement.

Instructional Strategies to Increase Learning

These sessions highlight current research and recommended classroom practices and instructional frameworks in academic/instructional areas. Sessions are designed to engage participants in activities that will help them understand how to use these research-based strategies to boost student achievement and graduation outcomes and provide necessary supports for students.

Behavioral Supports

Youth practitioners, educators, and administrators find themselves facing increasing situations that require a behavioral change on the part of a young person, parent, or even staff member. This strand seeks to introduce strategies that can be used to address behavioral and/or attitudinal episodes.

Family and Community Engagement

These sessions provide information about the vital role that family members and the broader community play in the education, growth, and development of young people; focusing upon the role they can play to ensure high-quality education for all students. Strategies will address how family and community involvement and partnerships can improve schools in order to increase student achievement and success.

School Climate: Safety and Student Wellness

This strand looks at the strategies and resources available to create a school environment where all members are welcomed, supported, and feel safe in school: socially, emotionally, intellectually, and physically. Sessions may explore strategies for building strong staff buy-in and commitment to initiatives, creating and sustaining unified vision for student achievement, and the use of effective school climate measures.

Service-Learning and Restorative Justice

Service-learning projects can strengthen young peoples' sense of their own effectiveness and help them develop meaningful relationships with their community outside of their own peer groups. Service-learning has a positive impact on young peoples' civic and educational attitudes and school performance while they meet community needs. This strand focuses on integrating successful service-learning models using community members to ensure students understand the relevance of classroom instruction to real-world challenges and experiences.

Digital Communication and Engagement

The digital age is upon us and is present in all areas of education. Students today are born into digital technology, and as technology continues to evolve, it is constantly providing new and innovative ways to engage students. With the proper technological tools, students become a part of their learning, immersed in their experiences these sessions will provide information on how to effectively engage students utilizing technology, both in and outside of the classroom, and provide strategies on how to incorporate technology in all aspects of student learning.

Reengagement and Recovery Strategies

The statistics on dropouts are so alarming that many people do not hear them anymore. As we work to address the needs of current students by providing a more engaging and opportunistic learning environment we must not forget those whom the system already failed. These sessions will look at the current state of dropouts and offer possible strategies that communities can use to reach out to young people who have left the education system and work with them to develop a plan to obtain their high school diploma and move on to postsecondary work.

Culture and Language

Culture and language are essential and integral components of education for American Indian students. Research has proven that embedding culture and language into the curriculum results in increased student engagement and achievement. These sessions will examine the current state of Native languages, important language revitalization efforts, strategies to successfully embed cultural components into the development of curriculum, and promote best practices and effective teaching strategies that incorporate Native language and culture.