



A Conference On DROPOUT PREVENTION *POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND DATA*

July 24 & 25, 2008

North Carolina State University, Raleigh
Friday Institute for Educational Innovation

NCASA is developing a series of high quality, reasonably-priced leadership programs for its membership and educators in North Carolina. The first program in this series is designed to address how **POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND DATA** help or hurt our efforts to reduce school dropouts. Now, in the 21st century, the costs of dropping out of school education are simply too great for the individual, your school and society!

The conference that will be conducted July 24th and 25th is designed for middle and high school educators. In North Carolina, the largest group of dropouts leave school in 9th grade, but these students make decisions about dropping out much earlier.

In your districts, one or more high schools and associated feeder middle school(s) are encouraged to send a team of three to five individuals representing administrators, counselors, and teachers. Members of the school district central office might also join the team. At the conference, each team will analyze their local dropout data along with the dropout prevention policies, programs and curriculum currently in place in their district and schools. Each team will take away from the conference a planning document to improve the alignment of dropout prevention policies, programs and curriculum.

DROPOUT PREVENTION COALITION

Teams participating in the July conference will be invited to join the NCASA Dropout Prevention Coalition, forming a cohort of schools across the State invested in improving their dropout prevention efforts. Following a Plan/Do/Study/Act cycle, NCASA will provide continuing support in the 2008-09 school year to help teams in the Coalition carry out their planning (Do), evaluate the results of their efforts (Study) and implement continuous improvements (Act). This support will take the form of on-site professional development conducted in your school district and online resources that permit Coalition members to share ideas and information and on best practices.



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

DAY ONE

July 24, 2008

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Morning:

- Presentation and sharing of best practices in dropout prevention efforts in our districts and identified in the research literature
- Analyses of dropout data specific to your school and district to identify demographic characteristics of students dropping out of your school and predictors of why these students drop out.

Lunch and Networking: Lunch provided by NCASA

Afternoon:

- Policy Review: Identification of national, state and school district policies and practices that support staying in school or contribute to decisions about dropping out.
- Program and Curriculum Review: Identification of strengths and weaknesses associated with dropout prevention programs and curricula currently in place in our schools, along with opportunities for improvement and possible future threats to dropout prevention efforts (aka SWOT analysis).

Evening: State speaker, networking and socializing.

DAY TWO

July 25, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Morning:

- Teams work on developing a first draft planning document for improving the alignment of dropout prevention policies, programs and curriculum at their schools and in their districts.
- NCASA organizes planning with teams to provide continuing support to the Dropout Prevention Coalition during the 2008-09 school year.

Adjourn: 11:30 a.m.

SPEAKERS

Ann McColl, Lawyer with NCASA: Jo Baker, recently Associate Superintendent for Instructional Services; EDSTAR, Inc., specializing in program evaluation; and others will present at the conference.

HOW TO REGISTER

Registration is \$129 per individual.

Visit the NCASA website to register
www.ncasa.net

Additional materials about the conference will be posted on the website