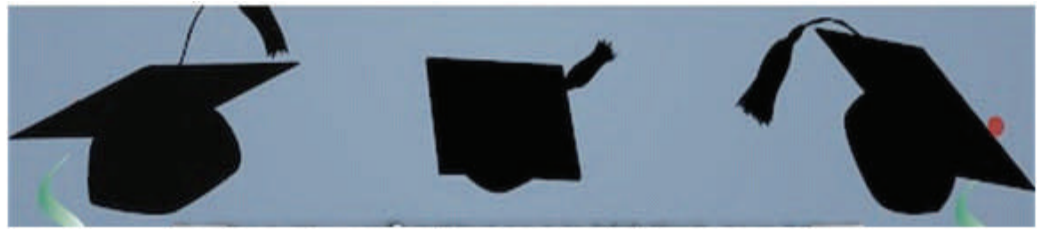


2010



FRANKLIN-ESSEX-HAMILTON BOCES

# Graduation Rate Initiative Newsletter



*President Barack Obama has made it clear that “dropping out of high school is no longer an option. It’s not just quitting on yourself, it’s quitting on your country.”*

As the 21st century United States moves towards an increasingly global economy, more individuals are discovering that higher levels of education are critical to their own and their nation’s ability to compete and thrive – in fact, about 90 percent of the fastest growing jobs will require some postsecondary education. Understanding the magnitude of the dropout problem and the forces that impact dropout rates is critically important to developing dropout prevention strategies.

[www.betterhighschools.org](http://www.betterhighschools.org)

## Economic Benefits of Reducing the Dropout Rate

In the nation’s fifty largest cities and the forty-five metropolitan areas that surround them, an estimated 600,000 students dropped out from the Class of 2008 at great cost not only to themselves but also to their communities. Reducing the number of dropouts by 50 percent for this single high school class would result in tremendous economic benefits to these regions. The following provides the likely contributions these 300,000 “new graduates” would make to their local economies:

- **\$4.1 billion in increased combined earnings**
- **\$2.8 billion in increased spending**
- **\$1.1 billion in additional investing**
- **\$10.5 billion in increased home sales**
- **\$340 million increased auto sales**
- **\$536 million in increased tax revenue**
- **Creation of 30,000 new jobs**

For more information:

[www.all4ed.org](http://www.all4ed.org)

## Achieving Graduation For All

As governors confront the worst state fiscal environment in the past 25 years, long-term prospects for strong economic growth are hampered by an immense underlying problem: the high school dropout crisis. At least one student in five drops out of school, and nearly 5 million, 18 to 24 year olds, lack a high school diploma. Furthermore, the nation is ranking 20 out of 28 among industrialized democracies on high school graduation rates. The following are recommendations from the National Governor’s Association:

- **Promote high school graduation for all**
- **Target youth at risk of dropping out**
- **Reengage youth who have dropped out of school**
- **Provide rigorous, relevant options for earning a high school diploma**

[www.nga.org](http://www.nga.org)



## District Responses to the Graduation Rate Initiative

Locally, school districts are making strides with incorporating various programs and techniques aiming to assist with decreasing the student drop-out rate and improving the graduation rate. Our local districts are implementing the following to assist with increasing the graduation rates:

- Opening communication with parents and the community through web based interactions and newsletters  
[All districts](#)
- Delivery of support services ( Writing and Math labs)  
Saranac Lake Central: Joshua Dann  
[dannojos@slcs.org](mailto:dannojos@slcs.org)
- Seat Time Recovery  
Chateaugay Central: Donna Andre  
[dandre@mail.fehb.org](mailto:dandre@mail.fehb.org)
- Using Nova Net Credit Recovery with struggling students  
Malone Central: Jerry Griffin  
[jgriffin@mail.fehb.org](mailto:jgriffin@mail.fehb.org)
- Identifying at risk students as early as possible  
Tupper Lake: Carolyn Merrihew  
[carolynm@tupperlakecsd.org](mailto:carolynm@tupperlakecsd.org)
- Having a Home Base in the school where every teacher has a group in the morning that they meet with for 20 minutes before the day begins  
Malone Central: Bob Stewart  
[bstewart@mail.fehb.org](mailto:bstewart@mail.fehb.org)
- Use PBIS to promote positive behavior and to have more interactions with students  
FEH BOCES: Lorraine Bessette  
[lbessett@mail.fehb.org](mailto:lbessett@mail.fehb.org)
- Building team discussions for students who need to be retained  
Salmon River: Kevin Walbridge  
[kwalbrid@mail.fehb.org](mailto:kwalbrid@mail.fehb.org)



## Syracuse University's Office of Professional Research and Development (OPRD)

Syracuse University's Office of Professional Research and Development (OPRD) in partnership with the Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES will work together to determine the barriers to high school graduation, identify viable approaches to increasing the number of students who graduate, and study promising practices (locally and in the research) that may inform school practice, programs, and interventions.

A study will be developed and tailored to the unique community contexts of participating districts in effort to assist them in making data-driven decisions related to programming for and with students at risk of not graduating.

The following is a timeline that the Office of Professional Research and Development proposes:

**February:** will review literature that is grounded in educational practices with rural, low-income students and families.

**April:** conduct multiple sets of interviews with students and adult leaders of each community to understand their perceptions and experiences related to research questions; develop and test phase I protocols and analyze the collected data.

**May:** develop and test phase II protocols, survey key local practitioners, and interview for further testing findings and recommendations.

**Summer:** stakeholders will be provided with reports pertaining to the study design, methods, findings and research briefs.

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