

## Dropout Prevention Action Planning Worksheet

<b>Summit State/Community:</b>	State of Delaware
<b>Date and Location of Summit</b>	October 28, 2008 Dover Sheraton, Dover, DE
<b>Geographical Area Covered by Summit:</b>	State of Delaware
<b>Date Worksheet Submitted to APA:</b>	12-Jan-09
<b>Main Point of Contact (full contact info):</b>	Sally C. Coonin
<b>Current Graduation Rate:</b>	2006-2007 NGA rate for all students 77.87%
<b>Vision &amp; Goal</b>	
<b>Vision Statement:</b>	All of the youth of the state of Delaware will graduate from high school ready for post secondary education/training, work, and life.
<b>10-Year Goal:</b>	90% of Delaware's youth, as calculated using the NGA graduation rate methodology, will be graduating from high school ready for post secondary education and/or training.
<b>Solutions</b>	
<b>Strengthening Schools</b>	Delaware will see increased centralized oversight and collaboration among dropout prevention entities in support of public schools. Delaware will increase its ability to identify and target areas and populations with low graduation rates and provide support and resources to schools.
<b>Supporting Students</b>	Delaware will become proficient in identifying individuals at risk for dropping out, starting in early childhood programs. Supports will be provided, including but not limited to the services of community based dropout prevention entities, dual enrollment/credit opportunities and real life experiences to provide job and life training and enhance student motivation and understanding of higher education and workforce expectations.
<b>Building Effective Policies</b>	Delaware will expand the role of the Department of Education in dropout prevention oversight and coordination. A Dropout Prevention Advisory Board will be formed to ensure the path forward of dropout prevention initiatives and support to schools in Delaware.
<b>Employing Data Systems</b>	Delaware will strengthen its P-20 data system to support school and community efforts to identify individual students and larger populations at risk of dropping out.



Timeline	Actions									
	Getting Organized		Knowledge Building		Action Planning		Building Public Will		Sustaining Momentum	
	Activities	Benchmarks	Activities	Benchmarks	Activities	Benchmarks	Activities	Benchmarks	Activities	Benchmarks
<b>Done Pre- or During Summit</b>	Grantee team identifies and recruits stakeholders to participate on the summit planning committee. (Grantee team)	Representation from business, nonprofits, government, and education sector attended planning meetings.	National and local data as well as information on the America's Promise initiative and resources available are shared with planning committee. (Grantee team)	Planning committee provides ideas for summit and possible solutions to dropout problem in Delaware.	Summit agenda is mapped out; activities and speakers are identified that will appeal to intended audience. (Planning committee)	Summit registration and attendance reflects intended audience.	Student forums are conducted to gain local youth perspective on why students dropout in Delaware. (Grantee team and planning committee)	Compelling documentary is produced and shared at summit. Film features local students and local facts and figures.	Summit attendees provide input for state action plan in breakout sessions. (All)	Attendees are engaged in group work. Input from business, education, non-profits, community organization, students and parents is captured.
<b>0-3 Months After Summit</b>	Grantee team debrief after summit, review evaluations and information generated from breakout sessions. Summit materials and video are made available to public via DOE website. (Grantee team)	Process for completing action plan is established.	Breakout session data is organized, reviewed and incorporated in action plan. (Grantee team)	Action plan is drafted.	Draft action plan is shared with planning team. Planning team comments, edits and additions are incorporated. Planning team asked to commit to ongoing participation as Dropout Prevention and Graduation Improvement Team formed as subcommittee of P20 Council (Grantee team)	Completed action plan is submitted to America's Promise within 60 days of summit. Dropout Prevention and Graduation Improvement Team formed as subcommittee of P20 Council	Action plan is presented at December State Board of Education meeting. Press release goes out and action plan is made available to the public. (Secretary of Education)	Media coverage and commitment from State Board to support policy and initiatives that support dropout prevention.	Action plan and summit materials included in transition documents for new Secretary of Education as well as the new Governor. (Secretary of Education)	
<b>4-6 Months After Summit</b>	Define and assign responsibilities to Dropout Prevention and Graduation Improvement subcommittee of the P20 council. (President of the State Board of Education and Secretary of Education). Community Based Organizations meet to create a plan for collaboration to provide dropout prevention services to all Delaware students.	Refined focus for Dropout Prevention and Graduation Improvement team and appropriate DOE staff. Accountable for keeping dropout prevention in the spotlight and monitoring progress toward state vision and goals. A framework for collaboration amongst Community Based Organizations.	Develop and disseminate resource list of school and community based programs currently in place to prevent student failure and or increase student success towards graduation. Develop a list of Delaware Community Based Organizations and their current engagement in dropout prevention.	Information on resources and programs supporting dropout prevention are accessible to all from one central location.	Develop dropout risk assessment tool for school and district use. Tool based on attendance, behavior and course performance. Provide training on use and application. (DOE) Publish list of organizations engaged in dropout prevention programming for public access.	Utilization rates by schools and districts.	Recruit and support mentors. Work with schools and districts to provide mentors to all those in need. (Business and Community orgs/nonprofit service providers)	Increased mentor involvement in schools.	Prioritize and act on recommendations from action plan. (Dropout prevention subcommittee of the p-20 council)	
<b>7-12 Months After Summit</b>	Identify and fill gaps in school and community based programs with specific attention given to gaps in the four key transition points: Pre-K to elementary, elementary to middle, middle grades to high school, and high school to college or postsecondary training. (All) Fund quality early education programs for all children, especially those in high poverty and at risk populations.	Increased number of students served by Community Based Organizations statewide.	Infuse more career and technical education in all schools. Partner with business to establish/expand internships and job shadowing programs during and after school. Make the connection between school and future careers for students by greater utilization of Student Success Plans. (Schools, Districts, DOE, Business)	Number of students using their SSP. Survey on effectiveness of SSP's	Provide incentive to high schools and districts to increase their graduation rates. Recognize schools for increases to overall rate as well as subgroup rate increases and most improved graduation rate. Also recognize schools for retaining students who graduate in >4 years with an "Every Child a Graduate Award" (State Chamber/Business partnership)	Improved rates.	Annual fall public service campaign on importance of high school diploma. Use radio and billboards targeting at risk areas. Reference resources available for students and families. (Community Orgs/nonprofit service providers, DSEA, and DOE)	Increased awareness of the importance of a high school diploma. Increased referrals to school and community providing dropout prevention services. Increased use of Yes You Can Website.	Encourage local school boards to reassess and consider revising punitive policies. Publish example best practice policies that support dropout prevention. Possible policies to include: attendance, grade retention, grade promotion, grading policy, referral to GED programs, and referral to alternative schools. (P20 Council members)	Less punitive policies. Policies support keeping kids in school and helping them reach graduation.

<b>7-12 Months After Summit Cont.</b>	Assess need for alternative education systems; develop or expand alternative programs for students at risk of dropping out; e.g. Positive Outcomes Charter School and Sarah Pyle Academy (Districts)	Data collected and policy/action proposed.	Training for teachers and support staff on identifying children at risk of dropping out, dealing with student needs, cultural sensitivity, and appropriate ways to encourage kids to stay in school. (Districts, higher eds, DOE)	Staff aware of the need for more positive interactions with students, and the causes and consequences of dropping out. More referrals to community programs and fewer dropouts.	Identify and/or develop resources and trainings for schools, families, mentors, coaches, community organizers etc. on how to encourage students to stay in school.		Continue to recruit and support mentors. Work with schools and districts to provide mentors to all those in need. (Business and Community orgs/nonprofit service providers)		Establish Pre-k programs for all students especially those in high poverty and at risk populations. (Legislature)	Increased school readiness and earlier emphasis on the importance of education.
<b>2 Years After Summit</b>	Reassess needs and revise goals as needed. (P20 Council)	How has the graduation rate and dropout data changed in schools, districts, and the state as a whole?	As more states report the NGA graduation rate monitor Delaware among the national data and look for best practice models to bring to Delaware. (DOE)	Delaware's graduation rate is within the top 15.	Survey schools and districts on utilization of dropout risk assessment tool and resource list of school and community programs. (DOE)	Data available to direct future efforts in supporting dropout preventions efforts.	Promote school, district, and community organization successes. Highlight effective partnerships. (All)	Newsletters, news articles, and awards given.	Revisit compulsory school age debate. Is there more support for increasing the state law from 16 to 18. (Legislature)	Possible Legislation
<b>5 Years After Summit</b>	Reassess needs and revise goals as needed. (P20 Council)	How has the graduation rate and dropout data changed in schools, districts, and the state as a whole?	As more states report the NGA graduation rate monitor Delaware among the national data and look for best practice models to bring to Delaware. (DOE)	Delaware's graduation rate is within the top 10.	Convene summit on dropout prevention moving forward.					
<b>10 Years After Summit</b>	Reassess needs and revise goals as needed. (P20 Council)	How has the graduation rate and dropout data changed in schools, districts, and the state as a whole?								

<b>How can the America's Promise Alliance best support you in your dropout prevention work?</b>	America's Promise should consider sponsoring an evaluation of programs by States in their Post Summit Action Plan to build a knowledge base of best practices. It would also be helpful to have a database of actions/best practices.
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<b>Please provide a roster of individuals and organizations committed to being part of the team that will implement this plan, and provide the phone # and email address for the on-going point of contact.</b>	Point of Contact: Judi Coffield 302-735-4010 jcoffield@doe.k12.de.us Team Members & Organizations: Selection and appointment of members to the Dropout Prevention Subcommittee of the P-20 Council has not been finalized however possible members include Suzanna Lee, Jobs for Delaware Graduates Inc.; Eddie Corbin, Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League; Dave Hillyard, Delaware Afterschool Alliance; Maureen Whalen, Delaware Department of Education; Carol Blaeuer, Business, Industry, Education Alliance; Nancy Wagner, Delaware State University; Lynn Paul, Delaware Mentoring Council; Jim Purcell, Communities in Schools; Susan Haberstroh, Delaware Department of Education; Secretary of Education; Member of the State Board of Education; John McCoy, Superintendent Lural School District; Mike Thomas, Superintendent Capitol School District; Elvina Knight, Principal Ceasar Rodney High School; Lennie Richardson, Assistant Principal Polytech High School; John Martin, Assistant Principal Middletown High School; Ogechy Nwanekwu, Visiting Teacher Kirk Middle School; Betty Wyatt, Principal Lake Forest High School; Jeff Menzer, Principal William Penn High School.
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