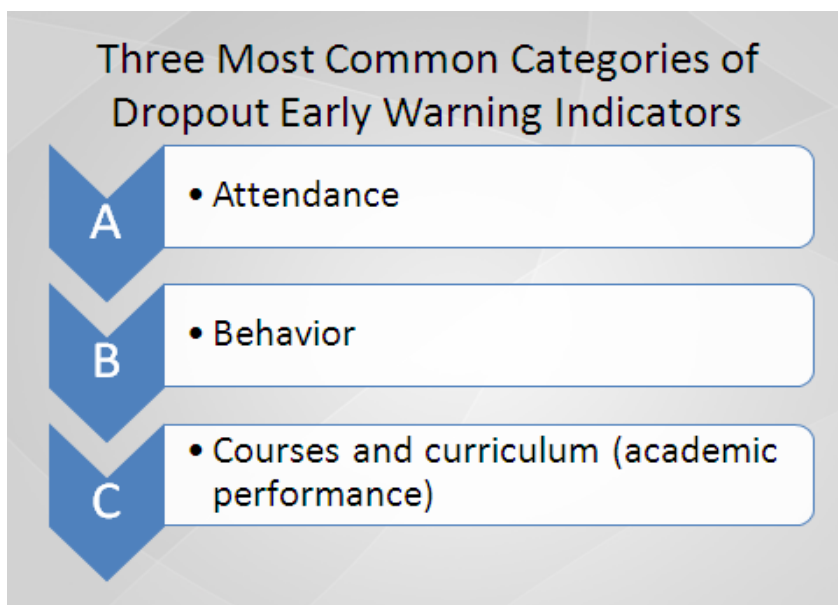# Early Warning System Resources

Question: If you were recommending a couple of key readings and/or research about Early Warning Systems, where would I go?

- Identifying Potential Dropouts: Key Lessons for Building an Early Warning System
  - http://www.achieve.org/files/FINAL-dropouts_1.pdf
- Dropping Out of High School: Prevalence, Risk Factors, and Remediation Strategies
  - http://www.ets.org/Media/Research/pdf/RD_Connections18.pdf
- National Dropout Prevention Center/Network
  - http://www.dropoutprevention.org/par_advantage
- What Works Clearinghouse for Dropout Prevention
  - http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/topic.aspx?sid=3
- Keeping Kids in School: What Research Tells us About Preventing Dropouts
  - http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org/Main-Menu/Staffingstudents/Keeping-kids-in-school-At-a-glance/Keeping-kids-in-school-Preventing-dropouts.html

Question: How would summarize the research on dropouts in a short, easy method I could use to communicate with my staff?

Three Most Common Categories of Dropout Early Warning Indicators

- A • Attendance
- B • Behavior
- C • Courses and curriculum (academic performance)

Question: What are the essential lessons for school leaders that I should know from longitudinal cohort studies?

1. While there is no single pathway that every dropout follows, there are common patterns, common crisis spots in the pipeline and common signposts, too.

2. Longitudinal studies consistently identify a certain set of general educational risk factors as highly predictive of dropping out.

3. However, it would be risky to simply guess at the exact measures of academic performance and educational engagement that best predict dropping out for students in a particular grade level in a particular district.

4. There might not be one single "leading indicator" that all dropouts exhibit first.

5. Dropouts differ not only in how they begin on the path to dropping out, but where they end it.

6. The transition to middle school and high school is a critically important time for students. Many dropouts begin to show warning signs and downward trends in 6th grade or 9th grade.

7. Transition-year failure often begins very early, and powerful risk factors can be observed even during the first month of school.

8. Students with poor prior achievement and behavior are more likely to fail during transition years. However, it can be hard to predict transition-year failure based solely on information collected the year before students change schools.

9. However, that does not necessarily mean that educators should wait until 9th grade to begin looking for warning signs.

10. School factors have an independent influence on whether incoming freshmen will graduate from high school or fall off track on the way to a diploma.

Question: What if I wanted to use an early warning tool for middle school and/or high school but could not afford to create one?

Free tool from the National High School Center for school districts:

http://betterhighschools.org/EWS_tool.asp

Question: What Tips Would you Give to Me to Get Started?

1. Determine whether your state already has an "early warning system" for using data to predict future student performance. Make use of that system if one is available.

2. Consult research-based risk-factor criteria shown to accurately predict whether a student is on track to graduate. Examples include the criteria available from the free early-warning system at the National High School Center.

3. Make sure teachers and school leaders get predictive data on a regular basis, understand how to interpret the information, and then use it to come up with intervention strategies.

4. If you're already using a predictive-data system for high school students, determine whether such a program can be expanded to middle and elementary schools.

Question: What are some of the best resources in the nation around attendance?

- https://getschooled.com/attendance-counts/report
- http://www.attendanceworks.org/what-can-i-do/

Question: What are some resources/studies in the nation around discipline?

- http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/kc/content/breaking-schools-rules-statewide-study
- http://www.behavioralinstitute.org/FreeDownloads/TIPS/Challenging%20Behavior%20effective%20discipline.pdf
- http://web.multco.us/sites/default/files/ccfc/documents/how_can_we_improve_school_discipline.pdf