

National Dropout Prevention Center/Network Model Program Database

The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network (NDPC/N) manages a database of Model Dropout Prevention Programs in order to keep information current and relevant for school and community leaders involved in developing intervention strategies for struggling students in high-risk situations. The programs are appropriate for individual students, cohort groups, or schoolwide interventions. They are also rated as to their effectiveness in dropout prevention, intervention, and/or recovery. Staff at the NDPC review the descriptive information periodically and make updates or deletions as needed to ensure the accuracy and quality of the program information. This information is available on the Center's Web site.

The programs included in the Model Program Database are nominated or recommended from various sources, including, but not limited to, *Journal of Education for Students Placed At Risk*, "Catching the Dream" Native American Scholarship Fund, Arizona Models of Effective Strategies Application, National Dropout Prevention Center, *SC At-Risk Student Intervention Implementation Guide*, the *Institute of Education Sciences Practice Guide*, and the What Works Clearinghouse.

Individuals or program contact people may nominate programs to be included in the database by logging on to the Center's Web site at www.dropoutprevention.org and following these steps:

- Click on Model Programs
- Click on Nominate a Program
- Complete the brief survey

Once the survey is completed the information is forwarded and rated (according to the rating scale included on the Web site) as to its evidence of effectiveness based on available research and evaluations.

Programs included in the NDPC's database have many benefits, such as receiving national recognition for the program's efforts in dropout prevention. An endorsement and recognition by the NDPC can also be used as evidence of success and cited when writing future proposals or seeking additional funding. Another benefit is that program administrators have an opportunity to share and exchange information with others who have similar concerns about dropout prevention.

Program planners in schools and organizations have numerous methods to search for a model program. The database can be searched alphabetically by the program name, by program strategies based on the 15 Effective Strategies developed by the NDPC, by key word descriptors, and by ratings. The database can also be searched by more than one criterion that narrows the findings to very specific programs.

Information pertaining to the selected program can be gathered from the database document. This information includes:

- Contact information
- Year of implementation
- Overview of program
- Method(s) of data collection and evaluation

- Funding costs and resources
- Required staffing, target group of students, and locality
- Risk factors
- Protective factors
- Effective strategies or other program descriptors

The rating scale for the programs selected for the NDPC Model Program Database is guided by the evaluation literature of specific prevention, intervention, and recovery programs. The overall rating is derived from three summary dimensions of program effectiveness:

- The number of years program is in existence
- The evaluation design
- The empirical evidence demonstrating the prevention or reduction of dropouts or the improvement in graduation rates and/or significant impact on dropout-related risk factors.

A brief description of the rating criteria is provided below:

Strong Evidence of Effectiveness

These programs have been in existence for three years or more. They were evaluated using an experimental design conducted by an external evaluation team and have strong empirical evidence demonstrating program effectiveness in reducing dropout and/or increasing graduation rates and/or having significant impact on dropout-related risk factors.

Moderate Evidence of Effectiveness

These programs have been in existence for three years or more. They were evaluated using a quasi-experimental design conducted by an external or internal evaluation team and have adequate empirical evidence demonstrating program effectiveness in reducing dropout and/or increasing graduation rates and/or having significant impact on dropout-related risk factors.

Limited Evidence of Effectiveness

These programs may be relatively new programs. They were evaluated using a limited evaluation design (single group pre- and post-test) conducted by an external or internal evaluation team. They have promising empirical evidence demonstrating program effectiveness in reducing dropout and/or increasing graduation rates and/or having significant impact on dropout-related risk factors that requires confirmation using more appropriate experimental techniques.

Insufficient Evidence of Effectiveness

These programs have insufficient assessment information or dated evaluation results that require additional information before a rating category is determined.

The NDPC Model Program Database supplies information on nationally recognized programs that are effective in dealing with the dropout crisis and related school improvement issues in America. Program planners interested in implementing programs and/or strategies in their own schools or communities may access this information at http://www.dropoutprevention.org/model_programs/default.htm.