POSITION STATEMENT

SUBJECT: At Risk Students

Since one of the objects of PTA is to bring into closer relation the home and the school so that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth, we, the Tennessee PTA Board of Managers recognize

that 25% of our students are at risk

and that students who are not in school, lower the system's daily average attendance, resulting in a loss of funds,

and that the student needs to improve study skills, such as when to study, how to study, improved attitude toward studying and time management,

and that there is a need to assist the students and the parents in identifying and coping with personal problems that are interfering with concentration, memory and overall school progress,

and that there is a need to work to reduce the dropout rate by 20% over the next 5 years,

and a need to reduce the suspension of students exhibiting inappropriate behavior by 20% over the next 5 years,

and a need to reduce referrals to the principal's office for disciplinary action,

We recognize that parents who have been involved in their child's educational program will exhibit more effective parenting skills and be more supportive of the school system's mission.

We urge local school boards to become actively involved with programs for at risk students, and that the Tennessee Legislature fund these in some measures.

Reasons for Dropouts

Teenage pregnancy (40% females)
Low grades (Particularly math and reading)
Getting married
Disruptive students
Retention
Overage
Dislike of school
Poverty
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3 Poor grammar (speaks poorly)
4 Ethnic minorities
5 Jobs
6 Learning disabilities
7 Suicidal
8 Handicapped
9 Uninterested parents in education (apathy)
10 Substandard schools
11 Stressful home life
12 Inability to identify with others
13 Parent dropouts
14 Unchallenged students
15 Students with AIDS
16 Abused

18 Solutions to Prevent Dropouts

20 Pre-school
21 Kindergarten
22 Positive attitudes of parents
23 More challenging curricula
24 Day care for student mothers
25 Parental involvement
26 Elementary counselors
27 Hiring teachers with expertise of dealing with students with multiple problems
28 Smaller pupil-teacher ratio
29 Establish comprehensive health and social services
30 Extra-curricular activities which help build skills
31 After school tutorial programs
32 Homework hotline
33 Improving basic skills
34 Free summer schools
35 Parent education and training programs
36 After school homework centers
37 Night school with regular high school curriculum
38 Adult basic education
39 GED
40 Computer education

Approved by the Board of Managers 11/4/87