

Middle School Success: The Path to Graduation (P2G)

Supporting Middle School Students With Emotional Behavioral Disorders

Middle School Success: The Path to Graduation (P2G) is a process designed to build local educational agencies' (LEAs') capacity to support middle school students identified as having emotional behavioral disorders (EBD) in achieving high school graduation and decreasing the likelihood of dropping out before graduating.

Accepting the Challenge

According to Education Week Research Center Analysis of IDEA Data (2018), students with EBD face some of the steepest challenges of students in any disability group.

Students identified with emotional disturbances:

- Have lower graduation rates and higher dropout rates than other students in special education
- Are more likely than other students with disabilities to face long-term suspension or expulsion
- Are more likely than their peers in general education to be both the victims and perpetrators of bullying
- Face high rates of self-harm

Identifying the Risk for Dropping Out of School

In the early 2000s, researchers from the Consortium on Chicago School Research, the Center for Social Organization of Schools at Johns Hopkins University, and the Philadelphia Education Fund set out to identify the most highly predictive factors of dropping out.

They identified three key factors—the **ABCs**—that were better predictors of student outcomes than demographics or test scores.

Attendance: Missing 20 days or being absent 10 percent of school days

Behavior: Two or more mild or more serious behavior infractions

Course performance:

- An inability to read at grade level by the end of third grade
- Failure in English or math in sixth through ninth grade
- A GPA of less than 2.0
- Two or more failures in ninth grade courses
- Failure to earn on-time promotion to the tenth grade



Implementing The Path to Graduation (P2G)

LEAs who participate in P2G receive:

Onsite training and technical assistance from PaTTAN and their intermediate unit to establish and sustain the following:

- An Early Warning System (EWS) to identify students with EBD who may be at risk for future drop out
- Data analysis and data meeting protocols to address system-wide and individual student concerns that present barriers to school completion
- Evidence based interventions:
 - ✦ Check & Connect
<http://checkandconnect.umn.edu/>
 - ✦ Strategic Instructional Model (SIM)
<https://sim.ku.edu/mission-and-goals>
 - ✦ Transition Discoveries
https://secondarytransition.org/page/transition_discoveries_guide
- Opportunities to engage families in meaningful ways to support collaborative efforts to increase student success

Grant funding of up to \$23,000 over three years of participation in the process.

Statewide and regional networking and professional development opportunities are provided for members of the LEAs' P2G teams.

Improving Student Outcomes

- Increased daily attendance
- Improved course performance
- Decreased behavioral incidents resulting in school removals
- Increased levels of engagement with school
- Increased likelihood of school completion

For more information, contact your regional PaTTAN office:

PaTTAN-East
610-265-7321 • 800-441-3215

PaTTAN Harrisburg
717-541-4960 • 800-360-7282 in PA only

PaTTAN Pittsburgh
412-826-2336 • 800-446-5607 in PA only



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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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