

## Dropouts in Tennessee and Strategies for Prevention

Tuesday, October 27, 2009  
Scarritt Bennett Center, Nashville, Tennessee

### Agenda

- 8:30–9:00 a.m.           **Registration**
- 9:00–9:15 a.m.           **Welcome**  
Introduction by Dr. Keith Brewer, Executive Director, Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents (TOSS)  
Comments by Dr. Timothy Webb, Commissioner of Tennessee Department of Education
- 9:15–9:30 a.m.           **REL Appalachia: A regional resource for educational research**  
Dr. Corbin Fauntleroy, CNA  
*A brief overview of the regional laboratory program and its resources.*
- 9:30–10:00 a.m.         **Status of High School Graduation and Dropouts in Tennessee**  
Dr. Joseph Jones, Field Analyst for TN Department of Education, REL Appalachia  
*This presentation will set the stage for the keynote speaker using descriptive data about high school dropouts in TN. These publicly available data are maintained in the TN Department of Education's longitudinal data system and are reported to the state by school district.*
- 10:00–10:15 a.m.       **WWC Resources and Research for Dropout Prevention**  
Video Presentation, What Works Clearinghouse (WWC)  
*An overview of the What Works Clearinghouse Practice Guides; what a practice guide is, how it is created, how it might be used, and the available topics.*
- 10:15–10:30 a.m.       Break
- 10:30–11:30 a.m.       **Keynote Address: Dropout Prevention**  
Dr. Russell Rumberger, The Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, UC Santa Barbara  
*A review of the recommendations from the practice guide, discussed in the context of how the WWC panel identified and assessed the research as well as how the recommendations can be utilized in local implementations (a 40-minute presentation followed by a 20-minute question-and-answer session with the expert).*
- 11:30–1:00 p.m.       **Working Lunch: Facilitator-Guided Discussion**  
*Participants will discuss reactions to the keynote presentation, discuss how the recommendations could be implemented in their districts, and identify any obstacles that need to be overcome*

*along with possible solutions. Questions arising out of this session will be given to the keynote presenter to address in his concluding remarks.*

1:00–2:30 p.m.

**Panel Discussion: Strategies from the Practice Guide**

Dr. Mary Reel, Director of Schools, Milan Special School Districts  
(30 minutes)

Dr. Dan Lawson, Director of Schools, Tullahoma City Schools (30  
minutes)

Dr. Connie Smith, Assistant Commissioner of Accountability and  
Teaching and Learning, Tennessee Department of  
Education (tentative)

*The local education agency panelists will discuss their  
experiences in implementing evidence-based drop-out prevention  
strategies identified in the practice guide and Dr. Smith will  
discuss state policies related to the practice guide  
recommendation.*

2:30-3:00 p.m.

**Questions & Answers**

*Panelists and expert will answer questions from participants.*

3:00- 3:30 p.m.

**Concluding Remarks (from the expert)**

3:30 p.m.

**Adjourn**

Dr. Keith Brewer, Executive Director, Tennessee Organization of  
School Superintendents (TOSS)