



AGENDA

Dropout Prevention: A Forum for Montana High School Leaders

June 24, 2010

Great Northern Hotel, Helena, Montana

8:00 A.M.–8:30 A.M.

Check-in and “meet and greet” participants

8:30 A.M.–9:00 A.M.

Welcome & Overview of the Day

Facilitated by Dr. Diana Oxley, REL Northwest

We will welcome our guests and describe the larger context for this IES Bridge Event. Participants will engage in a small group activity to introduce themselves. We will also provide an overview of the day’s activities and share materials, presenting an overview and rationale of What Works Clearinghouse practice guides.

9:00 A.M.–10:00 A.M.

Presentation on the practice guide *Dropout Prevention*

Presentation by Dr. Russell Rumberger, University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB)

Dr. Rumberger will present the research, findings, and recommendations in the practice guide. He will discuss the quality of the research and what additional efforts are needed to measure the efficacy of dropout prevention programs.

10:00 A.M.–10:15 A.M.

Small Group Discussions

Facilitators from REL Northwest with each small group

In small groups participants reflect on presentation and discuss responses to questions:

- *What dropout prevention strategies presented do we already employ and what success have we had in their implementation and impact?*
- *What are some of the strategies presented that would enhance what we are already doing?*
- *What challenges would my school/district encounter in implementing these strategies?*

10:15 A.M.–10:30 A.M.

Break

10:30 A.M.–11:45 A.M.

Practitioner Panel Discussion

Moderated by Erin McGary-Hamilton, REL Northwest

A panel of high school and district leaders who have experience and success in applying the recommendation to provide rigorous and relevant instruction will share their practices. They will focus on three areas: curriculum and instruction improvements to increase rigor and relevance; related professional learning activities; and resource use to support these practices.

11:45 A.M.–12:00 P.M.

Connections to Research

Dr. Russell Rumberger, UCSB

Dr. Rumberger will comment on the panel presentation, make connections between district practices and the *Dropout Prevention* guide recommendations, and suggest ways to strengthen efforts.

12:00 P.M.–1:00 P.M.

Lunch: Unpacking the Recommendations

Participants will discuss the practice guide recommendations and the morning's information through the following prompts:

- *On the basis of what we've learned today, what is one way in which we could enhance our current dropout prevention efforts?*
- *What investments in professional learning, teacher collaboration, or staffing would be required to pursue this?*

1:00 P.M.–1:45 P.M.

National High School Center Resources

Dr. Jessica Heppen, National High School Center

Dr. Heppen will present the research and resources in *Developing Early Warning Systems to Identify Potential High School Dropouts* and the *Early Warning Systems Tool*. Participants will discuss how schools can utilize these resources to support dropout prevention recommendations.

1:45 P.M.–2:25 P.M.

Synthesis and Action Steps

Erin McGary-Hamilton & Dr. Diana Oxley, REL Northwest

REL Northwest staff will lead small groups (organized by district teams) through a protocol to help them synthesize and apply the information they received today and develop action steps for their districts. They will be asked to examine current practices, consider how these can be improved, and what "first steps" they can take back home. Teams that volunteer will share the one most significant step they could take to enhance their current dropout prevention practice.

2:25 P.M.–2:45 P.M.

Response to Table Groups

Dr. Russell Rumberger, UCSB

Dr. Rumberger will respond to teams' ideas for enhancing their dropout prevention practice.

2:45 P.M.–3:00 P.M.

Closing Remarks and Evaluation

Dr. Diana Oxley, REL Northwest

Dr. Oxley will provide summary remarks and thank the presenters and participants. Montana High School Network members will distribute evaluation forms and request that all participants take the time to complete the form to provide event feedback.