

Viewing & Discussion Guide

Promoting Success in the First Year of High School

In this video, you'll learn that a successful first year of high school is key to earning a diploma four years later. You will also learn what the research says about 9th grade challenges and about promising dropout prevention strategies to get students to and through their critical first year.*

Understand the Material

1. **List the challenges** students face in navigating the transition to high school.

2. Take notes on the key features of each of the **three promising practices** described in the video.

Using Data to Identify Students

Providing Academic Supports

Connecting Students to Caring Adult

*Please contact relwest@wested.org for this worksheet in a .docx format

Understanding the Problem Through Evidence and Data

What information do we have about our students and the challenges they face navigating the 9th grade year? What is their experience prior to 9th grade? Are any transition supports in place now that show promise in helping students stay on track for graduation?

Promoting Success

For each transition strategy in the table below, note what is already in place and what you might need to change or add to help students stay on track for graduation before, during, and after the 9th grade year. Consider alignment of your practices from year to year, evidence of effectiveness, and targeted use of resources in planning for implementation.

Transition Support Strategies	Before the Transition Year...	During the Transition Year...	After the Transition Year...
Using data to identify students at risk of dropping out			
Providing academic supports to students who need help			
Connecting students to caring adults			
Other			