

GREAT Kids (Graduation Requires Effort And Time)

Grades 6-8



A summer program for at-risk students entering junior high:

- *Students attend a 6-week program in basic skills.*
- *Active parent, teacher, and school staff coordination and collaboration are integral components of the program.*

Results



Data show that students performing 1 to 2 years below grade level in reading or writing, lacking self-esteem, or having behavioral problems have:

- *Increased academic achievement,*
- *Decreased school dropout, and*
- *Improved attitudes toward school.*

The Program

Based on the philosophy that the total development of the child is essential for academic and life success, the GREAT Kids program aims to improve at-risk students' chances for successful completion of junior high school in 2 years.

An integrative curriculum (basic skills in math, science, reading, and writing) is introduced through a home and career skills and technology education approach. Students attend classes 5 days a week for 3 hours every morning for 6 weeks during the transitional summer from elementary school to junior high school. Transportation is provided through Department of Social Services funding.

The key to the program's success is the partnership formed by the student, teacher, and parent. The program encourages active parental participation through weekly meetings. A commitment of the parents to attend weekly evening meetings is essential; there are four parent meetings with the counselors and monthly group meetings between the students and their counselors. The teachers and administrator meet every day for at least 1 hour to coordinate the week's curriculum and field trips; to discuss student progress; and to brainstorm strategies to deal with students who are experiencing social, emotional, and behavioral difficulties.

Professional Development

There is a four-day training, with a required 2-day follow-up consultation.

Costs & Funding Options

The four-day training can occur either at the demonstration or replication site and costs \$150 per diem per trainer (plus travel and lodging expenses if training takes place at replicator's site). A 2-day follow-up consultation is provided at the same cost after program implementation. Necessary program materials are listed in a recommended program bibliography. Possible funding sources for replication include ESEA Title VI.

Learning Standards:

The program provides assistance to help students meet the standards in math, science and English language arts.

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