Implementation Spotlight

Cherry Creek 5 School District

COLORADO
Department of Education

Dropout Prevention Strategy: On-Track/Early Warning Systems

Systematically review data to identify students showing signs of being at risk of dropping out of high school or not meeting post-high school outcomes, understand what leads to elevated signs of risk, and provide targeted supports to students.

Program Description

Cherry Creek 5 School District is working with a staff member, called an Expelled and At-Risk Student Services (EARSS) partners, at each of the comprehensive high schools to identify students through a data-driven process that examines attendance, behavior, and academic records and provides tiered support in response to the specific area the student is struggling. EARSS is a Colorado Department of Education grant that funds part of the initiative. School staff can to refer students they believe would benefit from additional support. Interventions include school-based support and services from outside local organizations through collaborative partnerships.

Outcomes and Measures

The district employs seven counselors, each with approximately 70–80 students, to track data using Tableau and provide quarterly updates using a shared spreadsheet. The program is intended to improve attendance, reduce the number of behavior incidents, and improve successful course completion. Baseline data were collected during the 2022–23 school year, and staff will compare data yearly to assess changes in student outcomes.

Adaptations

This is a new program, and the district shared that each site requires adaptations to incorporate the program into the current system at the partnering school. As a result, the role of the EARSS partner looks different at each building as they work to support students and the school in developing consistent systems.

Lessons Learned

The district shared that a lesson learned was to be flexible, as the program was early in the implementation stage. Staff supporting implementation were passionate and committed to making the necessary adjustments to get the program off the ground.

Dedicated to Excellence
Cherry Creek Schools

About Us
District: Cherry Creek 5
Region: Metro Area
Locale: Urban-Suburban

Highlighted Strategies

- On-Track/Early Warning Systems

Name of Program/Intervention

- EARSS grant

Implementation Stage

- Implementing

Outcomes and Measures

- Improve attendance
- Reduce the number of behavior incidents
- Improve course passage

Students Served

- Early warning system–identified students