

Creating a Freshman
Transition Program

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WELCOME!

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What do we do when our flowers don't bloom?



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If a flower doesn't bloom we can:

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In and Out Group Activity

- Everyone is assigned a number – 1 or 2
 - Group 1 stays at their seat
 - Group 2 steps in the hall

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What does this activity tell us about communication?

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Who are you?
Name and Position

Benefits of an effective Freshman Transition Program

- Decreased absentee rates
- Decreased truancy
- Steady or increased participation in sports and activities
- Fewer discipline incidents
- Steady or increased GPA
- More involved parents
- More goal oriented students
- Increased graduation rates

Research indicates that students who participate in transitions that actively involve students, parents, and staff members are less likely to drop out of high school even when demographic and other information is held constant.

- Smith, 1997, Hertzog And Morgan, 1999

Steps to Creating a Freshman Transition Program

Second Order Change

- Major change - starting a program from scratch
- Elicit district and building level buy-in
- Seek volunteers from your staff
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Frtt3f7Fsk>

First Order Change

- Minor change - change in curriculum
- Design professional development providing information on the course
- Assemble a curriculum team with volunteers
- Create professional development on how to teach the course

Highlights of our Program

Professional Learning Communities

Data Collection

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Freshman Report Card Conferences

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Freshman Reward Incentives

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Freshman Summer Institute

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Sometimes you have to Go for It!

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