

AmeriCorps Promise Fellow Model

Promise Fellows work with students in grades 6-12 to develop a plan to keep them engaged in school and on-track for high school graduation, drawing on a menu of research-based, data-driven activities informed by leading research in dropout prevention.

Specifically, Promise Fellows implement interventions that fall into three categories: **Caring Adults, Service and Service-Learning**, and **Out-Of-School Supports**. These interventions are aligned with the **National Dropout Prevention Center's** "Basic Core Strategies" of Mentoring/Tutoring, Service-Learning and After-school/Out-of-School Opportunities; three of the strategies identified as most effective in reducing school dropout. The interventions also mirror **America's Promise Alliance's** promises of Caring Adults, Opportunities to Help Others, and Safe Places. America's Promise Alliance reports that "Children who receive a critical mass of these resources are much more likely to achieve academic success, be socially competent and become involved in their communities" (Every Child, Every Promise, Turning Failure Into Action, 2006).



Caring Adult supports: informal mentoring, assistance with work completion, daily check-ins, etc. These activities establish one or more positive relationships at school- relationships that support student engagement and protect against negative outcomes (Anderson et al., 2004; Rumberger, 2001; Wilkins & Bost, 2016). Programs across the country show solid evidence of the positive impact of mentoring relationships between youth and caring adults.



Service and Service-Learning supports: encouraging students to serve as a mentor, volunteer, or engage in a service-learning project. These activities are backed by research that highlights the impact of service-learning on early indicators of dropout risk, including students' commitment to school, their academic achievement, and attendance (Scales, Blyth, Berkas, & Kielsmeier, 2000; Scales et al., 2006).



Out-of-School supports: activities that involve students in after-school clubs, activities and tutoring. Research shows that fostering participation in afterschool activities leads to increased achievement, attendance, pro-social behavior, and connection to school (Department of Education, 2002).



Of students served by Promise Fellows increased their Academic Engagement through decreased behavior referrals, increased school attendance, and improved academic performance.



Students served by AmeriCorps Promise Fellows statewide during the 2016-17 program year.



2233 University Ave W, Suite 235, St. Paul, MN 55114

www.mnyouth.net • info@mnouth.net • 651.528.8589