

At-Risk Students

The overall objective in addressing the educational deficiencies of at-risk youth is to provide a positive environment conducive to the promotion of academic success whereby these students are no longer "at-risk" of failure to achieve or of dropping out of school. Partnerships between parents, local businesses, service agencies, and the schools provide opportunities to mobilize the community and solidify efforts to eliminate the causes of student alienation from the home, school, and the community.

Any student who runs the risk of not acquiring the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to become a productive adult is at risk. Therefore, the term "student at-risk" refers to any child who has been adversely affected by one, or more of the factors associated with poor health, economic status, family conditions, linguistic mismatch, social maladjustment, and community change/upheaval. It is the inability to cope with these adversities (whether they be short-or long-term) that negatively affects school performance and attendance. Indicators of risk may include: underdeveloped language skills, drug and alcohol abuse, disruptive and/or delinquent behavior, inattentiveness, chronically withdrawn behavior, excessive school absence, dropping out of school and low academic achievement.

The following goals are derived from research related to at-risk students:

1. Students will establish a positive social bond with teachers and peers;
2. Students will develop positive self-esteem;
3. Students will develop a sense of competency;
4. Students will develop self-control;
5. Students will become aware of opportunities available to them;
6. Students will develop high but realistic aspirations for their future;
7. Students will develop positive attitudes toward school and their teachers;
8. Students will develop a sense of responsibility;
9. Students will develop proficiency in basic academic skills;

10. Students will develop proficiency in the English language;

11. Students will develop practical life skills.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 343.650](#)

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[OAR 581-015-0750](#)

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. §§ 6311-6322 (2006).