



EDUCATION GROUP

Interactive Workshops. Engaged Communities.
Keeping teens "into" school!



"You gave us an education about why we need education." –Evan, middle school student, Washington

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Who We Serve

Middle and High School Teens
in their school classrooms

CHOICES

Addressing the High School Dropout Epidemic

The Problem: Every school day 7,000 teens become high school dropouts. Each time a teen drops out, he or she faces a lifetime of challenges and uncertainty, and also forfeits an estimated \$260,000 in lifetime earnings compared to high school graduates. But we as a nation also face a lifetime of healthcare, welfare and crime costs for each dropout, as well as lost tax revenues resulting from their lower earnings, which together are estimated at \$209,000 per teen. With 7,000 kids dropping out each school day, this means we are incurring future losses of \$1.5 billion every school day that we allow this to continue!

The Workshop: Into this appalling epidemic steps CHOICES, an interactive decision-making workshop that focuses on keeping teens in school, motivating them toward their education and future, and introducing them to practical life skills to help them succeed. In two fast-paced hour-long sessions, business volunteers take students through real-world exercises on academic self-discipline, time and money management and goal setting. We were started by a Seattle dad that broke through to his troubled teenage son, and 25 years later have served over 6 million teens across the nation through our social enterprise "seeding" delivery model. We currently support 183 program sites in 38 states and engage 1,400 business and community volunteers to serve 132,000 teens every year – that's more than 700 teens every school day, and we do it with three paid employees, at a cost of less than \$5 per teen.

The Results: At the end of every CHOICES workshop we administer student and staff surveys to get feedback on the materials and presenters. In a recent compilation of 4,364 student surveys from three states over three years, our composite "approval rating" from students was 88%. From teachers it was 97%. In 2007 we conducted a new formative study to observe changes in student levels of engagement in class coincident with their CHOICES experience. This study indicated a 9% increase in appropriate engagement, a 9% decrease in inappropriate engagement and a 9% decrease in non-engagement coincident with CHOICES. School engagement has been shown to be a reliable indicator of the probability of on-time high school completion.

The Call: Turn a teen around today with your time, money and/or other resources. Visit www.choices.org or call 888-CHOICES (888-246-4237). Five dollars can save a teen, and help build a stronger future for us all.