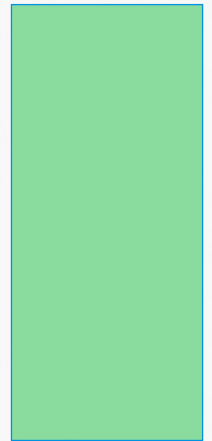


# AT RISK STUDENTS/DROPOUTS

STEPHANIE HOFER AND JESSICA FAUSER



# INTRO ACTIVITY: FOUR YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL SURVEY

**Think back to high school. How many of you know someone that:**

1. Got arrested?
2. Dropped out of school?
3. Was pregnant?
4. Was teased for social or physical differences?
5. Had problems making friends?
6. Always got bad grades (typically D's and F's)?



How many people from your high school would you say dropped out and did not graduate with you?

# WHO ARE “AT-RISK” STUDENTS

## Individual Traits

- Disabled
- Held back a grade
- ELL
- Below average grades in middle school

## Family Traits

- Broken family
- Recent Immigrant
- Low socioeconomic status
- One or both parents out of work
- Moving often

# STATISTICS FOR AT-RISK STUDENTS

- At least one disability - 7.6%
- Retained in grade at least once - 8.1%
- Speaks English less than 'very well' - 4.9%
- Does not live with both parents - 30.8%
- Either parent emigrated in past 5 years - 2.3%
- Family income below \$10,000 - 8.5%
- Neither parent/guardian employed - 10.5%
- <http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/each-day-in-america.html>

# WHY STUDENTS DROPOUT

- Don't like school
- Have to work
- Abuse drugs
- Peer pressure
- Behind in school
- Pregnant
- Family did it/Family values
- Bullied
- Abused
- Become gang members
- No motivation
- No authority figure
- Schools do not care
- Do not feel safe at school



# DROPOUT NATION





# THE DROPOUT RATE



## Dropout Rate: 30%

- Less than 9% of At-Risk students will earn a college degree before the age of 24.

# "AT-RISK" YOUTH



- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iM3jjLkparQ>



# HOW MIDDLE SCHOOLS ARE AFFECTED:

- Alabama Gov. Bob Riley - new law raising the minimum age to drop out of high school in the state from 16 to 17; student must attend an exit interview with a school administrator and a parent or guardian before dropping out
- Alternative education – switch back to public schools after being educated in a different way
- Bad habits now? Bad habits later!
- Middle school is training for high school

# PROGRAMS FOR AT RISK/DROPOUT STUDENTS

- Mattie C. Stewart Foundation, an Alabama-based nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing dropout rates: The Choice Bus



- Alternative education to public schools

# WHAT WE CAN DO AS TEACHERS:

- **"If we can just touch a couple of lives and save a couple of children from making bad choices or choice of not getting their education, then we've done our job."** -Executive Director of the Mattie C. Stewart Foundation, Phil Christian.
- Follow trend of higher education: "risk assessment team"
- Strong school and community perspective ([dropoutprevention.org](http://dropoutprevention.org)):
  1. (Academic) Systemic Renewal
  2. School-community collaboration
  3. Create safe learning environments

# WHAT CAN WE DO FOR OUR STUDENTS THAT ARE AT RISK?

- Basic core strategies ([dropoutprevention.org](http://dropoutprevention.org)):
  1. Mentoring/tutoring
  2. Service-learning
  3. Alternative schooling
  4. After school opportunities





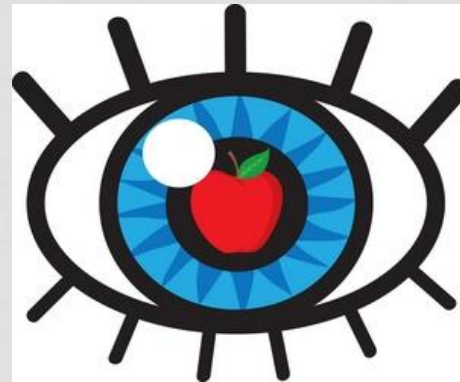
# HOW CAN WE PREPARE OUR LESSONS TO HELP AT-RISK STUDENTS?

- Seek professional development
- Promote active learning
- Use educational technology effectively
- Consider individualized instruction
- Career and Technology Education (CTE) – help them prepare for graduation and beyond



# WHAT TO WATCH FOR:

- measure at-risk student behavior in a quantifiable manner: tracking a few numbers and behaviors and keeping some good notes - grades
- tardiness or absenteeism
- disruptive behavior



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