Making a Difference in Central Ohio: Removing Barriers to the Academic Success of Foster Children

Bart Anderson, Superintendent
Tom Goodney, Deputy Superintendent
About ESC of Central Ohio

- Serves Franklin, Delaware and Union counties
- Service territory includes 25 school districts and 200,000 students
- First educational service agency in Ohio to earn accreditation from AdvancED/North Central Association
- 1,151 employees (including Council of Governments)
- Approximate budget: $91 million
- ’10-’11: Direct instruction to 804 students with special needs
- ’10-’11: 5,200 educators attended 334 professional development events
Why EdPASS?

Children in Custody of Franklin County Children Services

- 2007: 3,192
- 2008: 4,886
- 2009: 4,420
- 2010: 4,251
Why EdPASS?

Compared to other students, students in foster care:

– Exhibit higher school mobility rates

  *More than one-third of the youth in foster care will attend five or more schools*

Why EdPASS?

Compared to other students, students in foster care:

– Read below grade level

  *On average, youth in foster care read at seventh grade level after completing the tenth grade*

Why EdPASS?

Compared to other students, students in foster care:

– Achieve at lower rates

  16-20 percentile points lower on statewide standardized tests

Why EdPASS?

Compared to other students, students in foster care:
– Drop out at significantly higher rates
– Are incarcerated at significantly higher rates,
– Are about half as likely to graduate

Why EdPASS?

Compared to other students, students in foster care:
– Use GED programs at six times the general rate

Why EdPASS?

Compared to other students, students in foster care:
– Often have physical, emotional or behavioral challenges that interfere with learning
– Lack support of adults who have the knowledge and skills to advocate for educational services

Why EdPASS?

Schools and child welfare agencies typically do not coordinate their services.

Why EdPASS?

July 2007

• Federal Child and Family Services Reviews of Public Child Welfare Agencies
  – Assessed whether the agency made concerted efforts to assess children’s educational needs at the initial contact with the child
  – Assessed educational needs on an ongoing basis
  – Assessed whether identified needs were appropriately addressed
Why EdPASS?

July 2007

  - FCCS self-assessment
  - Additional capacity and expertise needed
  - Reached out to the ESC to design and deploy Education Partnership for Academic Student Success
  - or EdPASS
Why EdPASS?

Why Partner with the ESC?

We know…

– How schools function
– How to navigate the educational landscape
– How students learn
– What services are available and how to get them
Why EdPASS?

Why Partner with the ESC?

We have…

– Existing relationships with school personnel
– Capacity to recruit, select, employ, train staff
– Demonstrated success for operating student programs
– Reputation for innovation and action
What is EdPASS?

Fall 2007

• Partnership between
  – Franklin County Children Services
  – ESC of Franklin County (Central Ohio)
  – Columbus City Schools (Ohio’s largest district)
  – South-Western City Schools (6th largest district)
What is EdPASS?

Fall 2007
- Two school districts
- Four Education Specialists
- 89 Students

Fall 2011
- 28 school districts/community schools
- Four residential treatment centers
- 15 Education Specialists
- 700+ Students
What is EdPASS?

Qualifying Student Criteria

• Custody of Children Services
• Enrolled in Franklin County School District
• High School or Middle School Age
• Consent to Participate
What is EdPASS?

Student level monitoring and support of
• Academic progress
• Attendance
• Behavior
What is EdPASS?

Essential Services

- Student-involved goal setting
- Incentives and rewards for goal attainment
- Weekly monitoring at school site
- Monthly reporting of student progress
- Tutoring and transportation
- Summer programming
- Promote engagement through participation in co-curricular and extra curricular activities
Who is EdPASS?

Education Specialists

• Bachelor’s degree
• Experience working with at-risk students
• Knowledge of school and community services
• 30:1 average caseload
• 30 hours per week/ 46 weeks / $30 per hour
• Monthly training and collaboration
Who is EdPASS?

Education Specialists

ARE
- Advocates
- Liaisons
- Guides
- Motivators

ARE NOT
- Tutors
- Caseworkers
- Counselors
- Providers
Who is EdPASS?

Students Served

- 2007: 89
- 2008: 175
- 2009: 398
- 2010: 474
- 2011: 721
EdPASS by the Numbers

$2,000 per student

- Education Specialists
- Administration
- Services and Supplies
- Overhead
# EdPASS by the Numbers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<td>Students served presently</td>
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<td>Students served by July</td>
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<td>School sites</td>
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<td>Districts/community schools</td>
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<td>Residential treatment facilities</td>
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<td>Education specialists</td>
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<td>Tutors</td>
<td>87</td>
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</table>
EdPASS by the Numbers

5 year results for EdPASS Students
• 92% on-time graduation rate
• 100% grad rate through first four years
• 35% perfect attendance
• 81% improved attendance
• 79% all passing grades for year
• 1.2 point average increase in GPA
EdPASS by the Numbers

Making a difference for LEAs

- Improved results on state assessments
- Improved graduation rate
- Improved student attendance
- Improved student behavior
- Improved homework completion rates
- Improved GPA
Questions?

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