





DREAM Academy

Dedication, Responsibility, Education, Attitude and Motivation

Presentation to the Board of Education

Presenters:

Dr. Terri Lozier, Assistant Superintendent Secondary Schools & Equity

Ms. Lourdes Baker, Principal DREAM Academy

Mr. Aaron Butler, Asst. Principal DREAM Academy

Mr. Joshua Zbinden, DREAM Academy Teacher

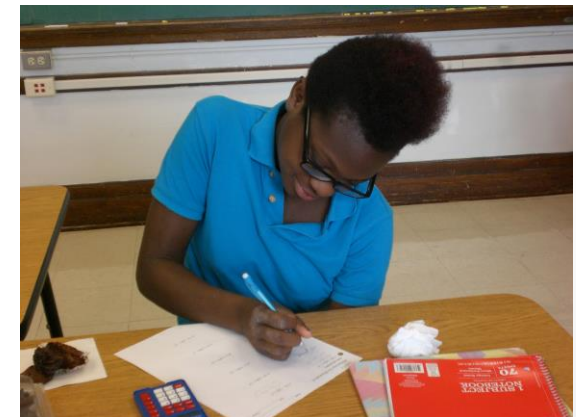
October 17, 2016



DREAM ACADEMY MISSION

To promote an environment that is dedicated to challenging our students academically, while also meeting their social and emotional needs through meaningful and deliberate interactions in a safe and nurturing environment.

- The need for change
- Re-thinking Alternative Education
- Stay tuned for special invitation at end of this presentation.



Strategic Plan & BOE Authority



- **Strategic Plan Priority 2:**

We will coordinate our efforts to provide a nurturing and safe learning experience and a flexible approach in meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of each student.

- **Board Policy 6.284:** The Superintendent or designee shall **develop, maintain, and supervise** a program for students at risk of academic failure or dropping out of school. The program shall include education and support services addressing individual learning styles, career development, and social needs, and may include without limitation one or more of the following...

Former Alternative Program (Gifford Street High School)

- Emphasized credit recovery
- Prior history of fights at school and out-of-school suspensions
- Reputation
- Low Attendance Rates

All 2/5 - Alternative Schools - by Percentage of 2/5 compared to enrollment



DREAM Academy: Preparing for Success

- Researched best practices and emerging trends on alternative education
- Visited local alternative programs
- Recruited dedicated teachers and support staff



DREAM Academy Staff

Knowledge & Critical Skills

Principal: Lourdes Baker

Assistant Principal/Dean of Students: Aaron Butler



- Recruited excellent teachers and support staff
- Teachers invested more than 60 hours of professional development
- Staff emphasis on reaching struggling learners


DREAM Academy: Focus



- Professional learning community time to address the academic and behavioral needs of students and professional development time scheduled weekly.
- Daily circle time, advisory, tutoring.
- Individual **Student Success Plan (SSP)** to help students grow beyond high school.

Developed Student Success Plans

- Each SSP will be based on an assessment of the student's educational knowledge and skills, as well as the student's social and emotional skills.
- The SSP will establish goals and objectives for satisfactory performance in the program.

 **STUDENT SUCCESS PLAN (SSP)**
SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46
DREAM ACADEMY

Meeting Date: _____
School: DREAM Academy
Chronological Grade: _____
Retention Grade: _____
Date Started Dream Academy: _____
Special Education: 504 (Please Circle if needed) _____

Meeting Attendance

Parent/Guardian _____ Student _____
Parent/Guardian _____ DREAM Academy Representative _____
Support Staff _____ Administrator _____
Support Staff _____ Other _____
Base School Representative _____ ROE Representative _____

Statement of Parent Rights: The parent understands that he/she has the right to agree/disagree to the placement and that, if placement is agreed to, it can be revoked at any time. Parents will receive quarterly communication to the progress of their student as per the district grading cycle. Student Success Plans are reviewed and updated twice per school year.

Signature of Agreement for Success Plan and participation in School District U-46 Dream Academy


Parent/Guardian _____ Student _____

Purpose:
Purpose of this meeting is to discuss entrance to the School District U-46 Dream Academy. The guardians and student have been made aware of the availability of participation in an Alternative Learning Opportunity Program. The Dream Academy's goal is to have students earn necessary credits to secure their diploma and effectively transition to post-high school plans.

The Success Plan allows for the students and staff to set target goals in the areas of academics, behavior, and attendance with the overall goal of earning missing credits and building skills necessary for post-high school placement. These agreed upon expectations will be monitored 3 times yearly by the Regional Office of Education and a copy sent to the parents with report cards. If the student is not making expected progress or is not complying with the program rules and expectations or is not adhering to a disciplinary warning, the student may be removed from the Dream Academy for an alternative placement.

Student Strengths:
[Insert Note]

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 **STUDENT SUCCESS PLAN (SSP)**
SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46
DREAM ACADEMY

Support Services provided to remove barriers to learning:
[Insert Note]

STUDENT PLAN

Academic:
See charts and tables below for Credits Earned, Current Grades, and Schedule. [Student Name] will attend Dream Academy and participate in the morning afternoon program. This schedule will allow [Student Name] to earn high school credit in order to proceed with the graduation requirements. A guidance counselor is available to help [Student Name] plan their post-high school placement.
[Insert Note for Plan]
[Insert IC Screenshots: Credits Earned, Schedule, Current Grades]

Behavior:
The behavior expectations and rules are all clearly stated in the School District U-46 parent guardian handbook, including the behavior matrix. [Student Name] will be expected to follow all school rules as stated in the School District U-46 handbook. [Student Name] will participate in Restorative Circle. Professional behavior expectations will be maintained for opportunities outside school including workplace visits and service learning events. Failure to comply with the above will be grounds for a recommendation of removal from the program.
[Insert Note]

Attendance:
[Student Name] is expected to attend consistently. Failure to maintain a good attendance record will result in truancy being filed through the Regional Office of Education, as well as being reported to the Elgin Police Department as a truant which could result in receiving a truancy citation. In addition, failure to attend school may result in not being able to pass classes which would cause failure to earn credits to graduate. A student can be placed on an attendance contract if their attendance becomes a serious hindrance to program completion. Interventions can also include calls home, parent shadowing, home visits, problem-solving meetings, and potential removal from the program. Student handbook explains the attendance policy and procedures.
[Insert IC Attendance Screenshot]

Transition Goal:
[Insert Note including specific, measurable, attainable goal]

PARENT QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

NOTES:

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Programs at DREAM Academy

- DREAM Academy High School: 9th through 12th grade
- DREAM Academy Middle School: 7th and 8th grade
- Regional Safe Schools Program - New Beginnings: Middle & High School
- RSSP CO-OP Program



Goal: Return to Home School and Graduate

- Return students to their home school, to a postsecondary program, or an adult education program.
- Provide a transition plan for each student.
- Follow-up monitoring of each student for at least two semesters.



Testimonials

Dear Ms. Baker,

As you know, last year was not my best and I feel like I have a second chance at The DREAM Academy. I will make the best of my time here. I can get help from teachers more easily than at my home school.

Sincerely, Brian Mendala



Dear Ms. Baker,

I am truly grateful for this chance that you have given me. Also a chance to graduate this year is a goal and dream not only for myself but for my family. No one in my family has ever graduated and I will be the first in my family to do so.

Sincerely, Stephanie Ruiz



Open House Invitation

Nov. 7, 2016

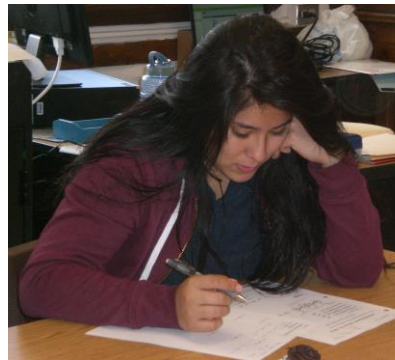
Breakfast: 8:15am - 8:50am

Informational Meeting Intake Process

9 a.m. to 10:30am

U-46 High School Education Options

- **Comprehensive High School:** Five District High Schools
(Bartlett, Elgin, Larkin, South Elgin, Streamwood)
- **DREAM Academy:** District-based program that serves students in smaller classes for up to two years.
- **Ombudsman:** Private company that provides off-site storefront services to help students meet their graduation requirements.
- **New Beginnings:** Kane County Regional Office of Education program.



DREAM Academy: Evaluation Metrics

- Student Attendance
- Family Engagement
- Transition Success Rate
- Graduation Rate
- College Enrollment and Job/Career Status



