

POVERTY AND STUDENTS

What factors put students at risk?

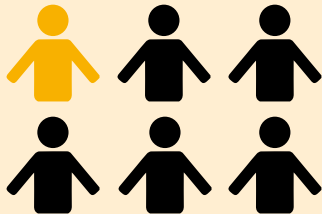


What is a Risk Factor?

Risk factors are any part of a student's environment that potentially increases the probability of a negative outcome to occur. This can include characteristics, behaviors, and conditions among other influences such as family, peers, and school.

51%

Of US students in public schools come from low income families



1 in 6

Children who are not reading proficiently in third grade do not graduate from high school on time

23%

Of below basic readers drop out, or fail to finish high school on time



2 x

As likely that students from families below poverty level to be held back a grade.

22%

Of children who have lived in poverty do not graduate from high school



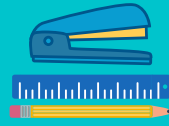
25-35%

Of students will begin school with factors that will potentially place them at risk of failing socially and academically

Sources

- Double Jeopardy How Third-Grade Reading Skills and Poverty Influence High School Graduation by Donald J. Hernandez
- 2013 National Center for Education Statistics
- <http://www.teachsafeschools.org/>
- <https://melissainstitute.org/>

HOW CAN TEACHERS HELP?



Educators are often one of the most influential people in a student's life. By identifying the risks above, we can take proactive steps to avoid the possible negative outcomes.

SET GOALS



Students who play an active role in their academics show significant improvement and motivation. Setting a goal with students encourages ownership and responsibility. Students who keep track of their goals, such as data binders or PDSA (Plan, Do, Study, Act) cycles, learn personal management.

Source & Examples: [Montgomery County Public Schools](#)

RECOGNIZE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



When students feel celebrated for their success, they are more likely to strive for additional success. Hosting class celebrations, and distributing individual rewards gives students a sense of belonging and significance. Teachers can use tickets or brag tags to show recognition.

Source & Example: [Brag Tags](#)

PROVIDE LEADERSHIP ROLES



Providing students with service options such as welcoming committee, assembly team, and public relations, promotes accountability. When students feel like they add value to the school, they will strive for higher attendance and academic success.

Source & Examples: [Leader In Me](#)

BUILD A RELATIONSHIP



The teacher-student relationship can be a long lasting impact for many children. Increasing the amount of positive role models for child will enhance their outlook of education. Take time to get to know your students. Choose three students a day to listen to for one minute each. Continue to try to reach each student. One life changing connection is worth it.

Source & Examples: [National Education Association](#)

SET CLEAR EXPECTATIONS



Students with boundaries and guidelines are more likely to succeed than those that don't. When a classroom clearly communicates what is expected, the student will have decreased behaviors, thus increasing learning capabilities.

Source & Example: [Education World](#)

What Can Parents Do?

Providing protective factors to combat the risks

What is a Protective Factor?

Protective factors bring a positive impact, or shield, against the negative of the risk factor. Therefore, when protective factors are in place, the probability of a child to continue down a negative path decreases, and success increases.

Parents play the largest role in a student's life. The more proactive a parent or guardian can be, the higher likelihood of success a student will experience. Regardless of environmental risk factors, parents can provide interventions to assist and aid their children in academic and social success.

ESTABLISH VALUES

Children pay more attention to what adults do, than they we say. Being aware of how an adult acts, and reacts, in situations can be a great teacher to their own behaviors. Slowing down to discuss tough topics gives a positive interaction to build upon for future instances.



SET STANDARDS

Setting standards for behavior, and remaining consistent, gives children structure and stability. Their behaviors are less likely to fluctuate when they know what is expected of them at home, as well as at school.



BE INVOLVED

Parents who play an active role in their children's education decrease negative outcomes. Regularly attending school functions, conferences, and events communicates a higher value on academic success.



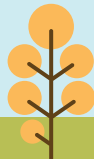
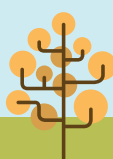
POSITIVE ASSOCIATION

Parents who model positive peer association provide their children with examples of healthy relationships. Additionally, having close family friends, or groups, such as church or sports teams, provides students with additional support systems.



Additional Resources for Parents

- AHA! PARENTING: 15 WAYS TO RAISE A CHILD WITH GREAT VALUES
- PARENTS.COM- 3 GOLDEN RULES FOR GREAT BEHAVIOR
- PSYCH CENTRAL-5 C'S FOR EFFECTIVE DISCIPLINE
- NEA- RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT ON PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT
- PBS PARENTS- SOCIAL ISSUES: WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?



Information Source:

Louisiana Office of Addictive Disorders Communities That Care Survey 2004