Supporting Credit Recovery Students to Find Success

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At One Time

- US schools were sorting mechanisms for the economy at the time
The Expectations

- There were different expectations for different students
In Our Time

- Intellectual skills rather than skilled hands are in demand by employers as well as colleges.
The Moral of the Story

- This makes a compelling case for developing supports to keep students who struggle in school
Graduation Requirements

- Credits are the name of the game for high school graduation
The purpose of this needs assessment is to identify supports at-risk high school students need to finish online credit recovery courses.
• CREDIT RECOVERY

Classes taken to make up credit for courses previously failed
Current Situation

- Large credit recovery program
  - Increasing credit requirements
  - Outdate class schedule
Online credit recovery courses are completed as independent study.
• Computer labs with tutors are available on campus during lunch and after school
Methods

- Surveyed
  - Teachers of failed courses
  - Tutors who assist students in the lab
Survey Monkey online tool was used to gather initial responses
- Skills
- Attitudes
- Support for academics
- Factors leading to failure
- Barriers to success
- Support in online environment
1. What skills are necessary for students to succeed in your class?

- being a self-directed learner (getting started on warm-ups right away, finishing work in a timely manner, doing homework, seeking help if needed)
- basic math skills for all operations
- basic pre-algebra skills

1. What skills are necessary for students to succeed in your class?

- Communicate regularly with instructor using any method: email, face-to-face, or phone.
- Basic internet/computer skills.
- 8th grade level reading skills.

1. What skills are necessary for students to succeed in your class?

- Students need to know how to make use of the tools around them in order to succeed. If a student has trouble knowing their multiplication tables, they should know how to get and use a calculator on their own. If a student cannot explain something in words, they should be able to express themselves another way—drawing a diagram, making an example, etc. They need to strive not only to make use of the skills they have, but to compensate for skills they might be low on.
1. What skills are necessary for students to be successful with online courses?

Computer knowledge, self-discipline, and ability to follow instruction are important to be successful with online courses.

1. What skills are necessary for students to be successful with online courses?

The student needs to have strong reading and retention skills. They also need to be a self starter in order to get through all the sections and retain information for the tests.

1. What skills are necessary for students to be successful with online courses?

Self-directed - good study habits - desire / ability to set goals and follow through - organization
Skills

- Read and write English
- Subject matter prior skills
- Independent thinker
- Problem solving strategies
- Organization skills
- Computer & internet skills
2. What attitudes are necessary for students to succeed in your class?

Students need to be self-motivated and want to do well for themselves. They need to come into class knowing that their grade is not something that I give them, but something that they earn through their hard work and efforts.

2. What attitudes are necessary for students to succeed in your class?

Willingness to learn. Respect in the classroom for others and their learning.

2. What attitudes are necessary for students to succeed in your class?

Positive, self-motivated.
2. What attitudes are necessary for students to be successful with online courses?

A persistent and positive attitude is necessary for online courses. Students have to keep up with the work and know that no matter what, they are going to keep trying and do well.

motivated - self-confident - desire to succeed - sense of urgency

The student has to want to pass the class in order to be successful. They have to adopt the attitude that they might not pass the sections on the first try but will continue to work on the subject until their grade is improved to passing.
Attitudes

- Positive
- Self-motivated
- Willing to put forth effort
- Persistent and able to persevere
- Motivated
- Sense of Urgency
Support Systems for Success - Teachers

3. What support systems do you think students who struggle with academic content need to be successful?

Safe environment with adult support. Parental support at home to respect the practice of skills learned by doing homework and honoring the importance of attendance. Extra help in the classroom when practicing skills using differentiated strategies to move learner up to next level. That may be through Math Lab, PTT in the classroom, or a workshop class.

3. What support systems do you think students who struggle with academic content need to be successful?

Tutoring, contact with a content area teacher.

3. What support systems do you think students who struggle with academic content need to be successful?

Support from a parent or other adult makes sure that they regularly work on their studies. Weekly check in or dog tag. Follow up for unit failures; the requirement to touch bases with instructor to remedy/learn the unit.
3. What support systems do you think online students need to be successful with academic content?

I think students need additional tutoring and guidance while they are working on online classes. By having the extra help, we can assure they are really grasping the academic content and getting their assignments done the right way.

3. What support systems do you think online students need to be successful with academic content?

The students need tutors to get through much of the work. They also need other online resources like dictionaries and information websites in order to understand some of the subjects. More input from a teacher in the subject might also help with their understanding or their morale in working on the course.

3. What support systems do you think online students need to be successful with academic content?

someone to go to with questions - someone to help motivate them - easy access to computer
Supports for Academic Success

- Teacher support
- Peer support
- Tutor support
- Safe environment
- Well organized environment
- In-school and after-school support
- Parent or other trusted adult
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>4. What factors have lead to student failure in your class?</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of attendance, refusal to participate in class, not being responsible for deadlines and making up tests/quizzes, not doing homework.</td>
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<th><strong>4. What factors have lead to student failure in your class?</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Not attending class and not completing assignments.</td>
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<th><strong>4. What factors have lead to student failure in your class?</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Not signing in online, not communicating, not being reachable. No response from parents when requests for help are made.</td>
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Factors Leading to Failure - Tutors

4. What factors do you think have lead to student failure with online courses?

I think the fact that many students are enrolled in an online class and just given a login and password lead to student failure. Students need a lot more guidance, especially because many of the students are doing credit recovery.

4. What factors do you think have lead to student failure with online courses?

lack of motivation, lack of confidence that they can get through the work, layout of the study material, the timing out and structure of the program design isn't always user friendly

4. What factors do you think have lead to student failure with online courses?

The content can seem very intimidating or overwhelming. Often there is a lot of material to read and the student doesn't have the patience or attention span to read it all before they answer the question.
Other Factors

- Poor attendance
- Lack of related skills
- Emotional issues
- Behavior problems
- Lack of follow through
- Lack of English skills (ELL)
- Lack of relevancy
5. What barriers do you think students who failed your course have in completing online courses?

The students who fail are students above. If they lack motivation in a supported classroom how will they work independently. Students who have poor attendance will have the same problem with an online course. Students who have low cognitive abilities will be unable to self-teach.

5. What barriers do you think students who failed your course have in completing online courses?

they’re not self-directed learners not much support at home drug use

5. What barriers do you think students who failed your course have in completing online courses?

Too much freedom, no accountability. The biggest barrier is that the only direction that is put on them is self direction, and they don’t have support which is why they are in the class in the first place.
Barriers for At-Risk Online Learners - Tutors

5. What barriers do you think students who previously failed courses have to success with online courses?

I think the first barrier is not knowing how to run the programs. Students login and do not know the first thing they should do, where to look for a syllabus, or what they should be trying to study. In this case, they procrastinate on getting help and by the time they are helped it is almost too late.

5. What barriers do you think students who previously failed courses have to success with online courses?

they see themselves as failures, their minds are sometimes made up that they will fail, lack of momentum and motivation, too much pressure to pass course, access to games, it is difficult to spend a half day focusing on one subject as they do in summer school

5. What barriers do you think students who previously failed courses have to success with online courses?

There is already an attitude that they can’t do it. Often students get frustrated with the format of the online course because much of the material seems harder than what they learned the first time around and failed. They get less instruction from online courses and can feel like they aren’t able to learn it because they already were challenged with the subject in a classroom environment and now are responsible for teaching themselves the material.
Barriers for At-risk Learners

- Too much freedom
- Poor attendance face-to-face and online
- Lack of support at home
- Difficulty navigating course program
- Time constraints due to other obligations
- See themselves as failures
6. What support systems do you think students who failed your course need to succeed with online courses?

Students who failed my course need a tutor or someone with content expertise to help them be successful. I have also noticed that the mathematics courses online are very full of "mathy" words that most students don't use in daily life: evaluate, distribute, use the transitive property, etc. They don't understand what the course is asking of them because they haven't absorbed the jargon of the subject. If students who did math recovery did a sort of pre-lesson about translating math words into what they really mean, maybe that would help them decipher the rest of the course.

Any way that anyone can think of to require them to log in regularly, and put forth effort. It is far too easy for them to not do anything.

6. What support systems do you think students who failed your course need to succeed with online courses?

a mentor teacher supportive home environment
6. What support systems do you think students need to be successful with online courses?

Besides online tutorial, I think students need assistance in the first week to be successful in their online courses. Students need to be walked through the entire process and get used to the online classroom before we can just let them go to work independently.

6. What support systems do you think students need to be successful with online courses?

In addition to online resources like dictionaries and encyclopedias, the student could prosper with more teacher input. The students that are taking online classes have already failed the class once and often do not have the best study habits or skills. Tutors are an important part of their process to pass the course and maybe more input from the teacher could also help.

6. What support systems do you think students need to be successful with online courses?

block gaming, study carrolls, sitting away from friends, tutors trained in the relevent material (especially necessary in advanced math classes such as geometry and trig.), help in scheduling their time in the computer lab (especially during the school year) and follow-up.
Supports for At-risk Learners

- Initial orientation
- Trusted adult
- Parent involvement
- More structure
- Elective rather than core classes
- Access to resources and materials
- Support from teacher and tutor
Then what?

- Responses were compiled
- Focus group met to discuss and brainstorm
Focus Group

- Examined all Responses
- Looked for “what stood out”
- Brainstormed
- Suggestions
WHAT THEY SAW

Face-to-Face & Online Classes

Barriers & Factors:

Skills to succeed in online courses vs in academic courses are the same.

- Missing skills in class > then online Still missing skills
- Students who did not have success in earlier grades
- Attendance
- No computer / Pref handson - "Can't sit still!"
QUESTIONS

Online Credit Recovery Courses with LESS support?

- Suggestions -

Why are particular students failing AND will an online course work for them - problem - if lacking prior skills?

Is student mature enough?

Electives - not remediation, credit for face-to-face electives for credit.
BRAINSTORM

Student Characteristics

Flexible Options

Support

core classes during the day
more than one option-based on student characteristics
flexible options
screening process
work study
FIT teacher lab (2 yr)
project based independent
SUGGESTIONS

Structure

Trusted Adult

Resources

relevant | mentors | partnerships
--- | --- | ---
Next year
Study Carrots
Make environment less distracting
Enrolled
Zero period | period 7
Scheduled
need - staff
Knowledgeable
2. Need - adult connection
3. Tutoring - 1:1 help available
Electives
Business
English
Enrolled
FOCUS GROUP RECOMMENDS

- Revisions for next school year
- Redesign of CREDIT RECOVERY program in the future
NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

- Structured Class
- Mandatory Attendance
- Caring, Knowledgeable Adult
- Differentiation of Products
- Options for Assessment
IN THE FUTURE

- A menu of options
- Provide for different learners
- Design based on student characteristics
Future Considerations

- Online Courses
- Blended Courses
- High interest electives
- Credit for work
Summary

MOVE AWAY FROM ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL PROGRAM
&
PROVIDE LEARNER BASED OPTIONS
NEXT STEPS

- Results have been presented to the school Principal
- A cadre of faculty will consider recommendations in planning for future Credit Recovery options
THANK YOU

Professors & Assistants
Critical Friends Group
Today’s Audience

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