



**GEORGIA
SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY**

**Georgia Center for Educational Renewal
"Committed to Closing the GAPS"**

RESEARCH YOU CAN USE NOW!

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GOOD LUCK

If you decide to implement this program, please let the Georgia Center know. If you are interested in this program, but feel you need additional advice or support, please contact Dr. Charles Reavis at the Georgia Center for Educational Renewal at careavis@georgiasouthern.edu or call 912-681-5719

Introduction

High school students in Kentucky were surveyed by the state department of education regarding what they wanted from their high schools. The students ranged from high to low achievers. The results were surprising to high school leaders: more advanced placement courses, more language courses, higher level math, more career/technical skills courses, more individualized instruction, and more guidance in developing career paths and goals.

Results of the GCER-sponsored Essay Writing Contest

In the fall of 2005, GCER invited high school students to write a 300 word essay on the topic, "What would a school be like that motivated students to study harder?" Find below the top ranked suggestions by students:

Form a rotating student advisory committee on motivation

Peer tutoring

Showing a personal interest in students, particularly those that are struggling or may have given up

Group/team learning, cooperative learning

Sessions on "What Life is Like Out There" by former students (some who are successful and some who are struggling)

Study hall during the regular school day with help for students who are struggling

A clean, fresh building/grounds/classrooms

Creating a "culture of learning" in the school, rather than stressing behavior/dress

Teachers receiving weekly recognition for the achievement of their students, rather than just once a year.

Emphasizing application of knowledge

Implications/Eagle Elite Schools

When asked, students have definite ideas on what schools could do to increase their motivation to study harder. Students are more likely to respond to ideas they have contributed. To encourage schools to formalize student-originated school improvement initiatives, GCER is creating a special recognition for schools: Eagle Elite. Schools interested in learning more about this special recognition should contact the GCER office:

912-681-5719 or careavis@georgiasouthern.edu