



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

RESEARCH YOU CAN USE NOW!

Dr. Charles Reavis

Director and
Goizueta Professor
of
Educational
Leadership

P.O. Box 8013
Statesboro
Georgia
30460-8013

Telephone
(912) 681-5719

FAX
(912) 681-5093

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

Research: Solid minority seniors were recruited to act as mentors to randomly selected middle school minority students considered at risk. Training for the mentors was provided by high school counselors. Orientation for the mentees was provided by middle school counselors. Refreshments were provided by the schools. The GET SMART groups met once every two weeks for one year. Follow-up sessions, once a month, were provided by the high school counselors the next year.

Findings: Compared to the control group of minority students, also considered at risk, the GET SMART group (1) scored significantly higher on state mandated tests, (2) experienced significantly fewer serious discipline incidents, (3) had higher attendance, and (4) experienced fewer drop-outs.

To Implement:

1. Prepare a description of your program for teachers and parents in conjunction with the middle school
2. Solicit nominees from teachers and counselors for mentors/mentees based on ability to communicate, at risk factors, and willingness to participate
3. Identify appropriate times, days. If after school, solicit incentives from local businesses (coupons for reduced prices for pizzas, sandwiches, for example), parent groups or local civic organizations. If during the school day, consider scheduling it as a "course" or in conjunction with lunch period.
4. Prepare orientations for both mentors and mentees.
5. Use a counselor as the advisor – all meetings should be attended by the advisor
6. Prepare topics to be discussed: How to navigate the school environment, get along with teachers, handle pressure from peers, meet homework and other expectations, prepare for tests, handle anger/disputes, etc. Allow time for interaction. Plan for hypothetical situations (role plays are useful here), such as a friend offering you drugs, a girl friend dropping you, another person "dissing" you, a teacher getting on you unfairly, being accused of something you did not do. Offer practical advice such as finding a place to study, how to ask for extra help if you need it, how to prepare for a test, setting personal goals, etc.