



Freshman Transition Program

Crawfordsville High School

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Background Leading to this Inquiry

- ▶ In reviewing graduation progress for our students, we have noticed that most students struggle during their freshman year.
- ▶ When discussing failing grades as a staff, it was determined that most of the failing grades were coming from the 9th grade class. This was consistent when looking at 9th grade progress from previous years. The majority of the students with missing work were also freshmen.
- ▶ We decided to be proactive and ensure that future freshman get off to a better start academically. We focused our inquiry on providing more support for these students.



The Purpose of Our Inquiry

- ▶ **Therefore, the purpose of our inquiry was to...**
 - ▶ Ensure that our freshman get off to a positive start and stay on track academically and earn credits toward their graduation progress.



Our Wondering

- ▶ With this purpose, we wondered if we provide more support and a more robust freshman transition program, will our freshman students earn more credits and stay on track to graduate?



Our Actions

- ▶ Create a freshman focus staff leadership team to brainstorm and examine possible transition activities and events for freshman students.
- ▶ Utilize homeroom next year once a week to deliver lessons for the freshman on a variety of topics such as: study skills, graduation progress, social/emotional, extracurricular activities, etc.
- ▶ Build on freshman orientation and have our student link crew leaders meet with freshman groups throughout the first quarter.
- ▶ Staff connection with freshman: Each staff member would be assigned a group of 2-3 freshman and make weekly contacts with these students.
- ▶ The Dream Team: group of staff members focused on the academic success of our at-risk freshmen.



Our Actions

- ▶ Create a freshman study hall where we focus on completing work, building skills, and relationships.



Data Collection

- ▶ Current Freshman Grades and Attendance
- ▶ Historical Grades
 - ▶ At-Risk Students
 - ▶ MTSS
- ▶ Graduation Rates-Last five years
- ▶ Graduation Progress/Credits



Our Discoveries

- ▶ **Learning Statement One:** Students who are off track to graduate struggle during 9th grade year.
- ▶ **Learning Statement Two:** There is a need for a more robust transition program to ensure that 9th grade students get off to a strong start in high school.
- ▶ **Learning Statement Three:** The support needs to continue throughout high school with many of our students.



Where We Are Heading Next

- ▶ **Based on the research and data from the mid-year review, we choose to focus on the following actions:**
 - ▶ Implementation of extra supports for 9th grade students starting next school year.
 - ▶ Established a focus team to lead our efforts with 9th graders.
 - ▶ Establishing mentorship program for 9th grade students-specific focus on at-risk students
 - ▶ Provide additional training and information on how to succeed at the high school level.