



Dropout Recovery Presentation to the
Michigan Senate Education Committee

Rebekah Richards
Founder and Chief Academic Officer

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About NoDropouts/WillGraduate

- Educational services provider and private online high school
- Accredited by NWAC, a division of AdvancEd
- Specialize in serving at-risk students
- Currently operating dropout recovery programs in partnership with public school districts across the country

How it works



School districts contract with NoDropouts for dropout recovery



NoDropouts receives a list of known dropouts and at-risk kids within the partner school district



NoDropouts hires an on-the-ground mentor to provide advocacy and student support



NoDropouts provides laptops and 3G/4G internet access



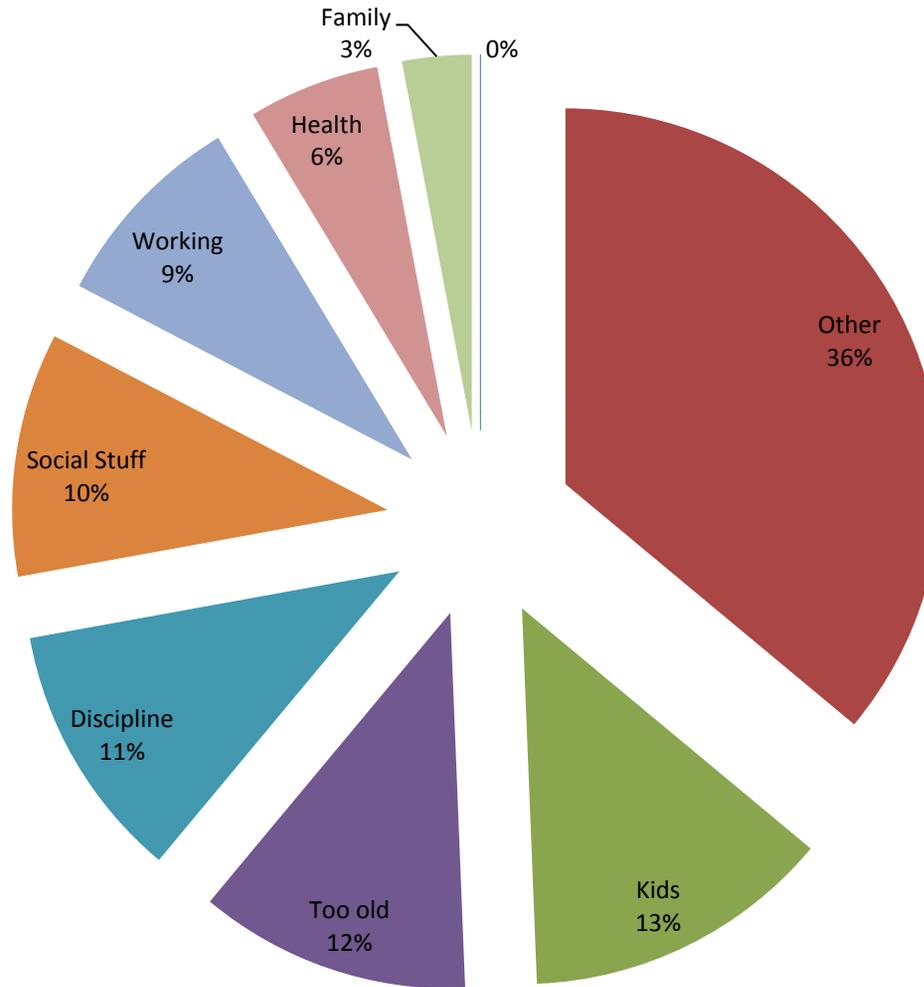
Kids complete courses online, **earn a diploma from local school district**

- *NoDropouts provides online mentoring, licensed and HQ online teachers, and 24x7 tutoring*

Target Student Population

Dropout Prevention <i>Traditional f2f</i>	Dropout Prevention <i>Alternative f2f</i>	Dropout Recovery <i>Standard</i>	Dropout Recovery <i>Intensive/High-Risk</i>
Students behind on credits	Social issues	Need flexibility of time and place	Students not "ready to learn"
Advanced students		Health and medical issues	Students not interested in education
Disengaged students	Discipline issues	Teen parents	Home not a safe place for learning
		Minor discipline issues	Gang / drug involvement

Why Did These Kids Leave School?



Why Do They Come Back?

- 85% of eligible dropouts we are able to contact re-enroll in school
- Reasons students cite for coming back:
 - 46% say they want to go to college
 - 42% say they want a better job

Profile of a Successful Online Learner

- Believe they can be successful
- Organized, high degree of self-regulation
- Strong internal locus of control
- Access to and experience with technology
- High tolerance for risk-taking



Source: Roblyer, M.D. (2006). Who Plays Well in the Virtual Sandbox? Characteristics of Successful Online Students and Teachers. ISTE SIGTel Bulletin.

A Sample: 6 Candidates for the WillGraduate Program

Name	iGPA	Credits at Start
Brian	1.50	18
Jordan	2.51	22.25
Anthony	0.07	6

Name	iGPA	Credits at Start
Maria	1.15	5
Skyler	2.93	9
Felix	0.80	11.5

Who are the best candidates for an online program?

WillGraduate: A Story of Unlikely Success

Name	iGPA	Credits at Start	Credits Earned	MIP	Story
Brian	1.50	18	2.5	7	... working full time ...a very motivated student...determined to graduate and join the military. Achieved his goal and graduated .
Jordan	2.51	22.25	0.75	5	... she was pregnant ...struggled with trying to find the time for school but her desire to go on to college motivated her to graduate
Anthony	0.07	6	6.25	20	...was suspended from school...works independently and consistently...has doubled his credits since joining ...rarely needs interventions
Maria	1.15	5	6.25	12	... pregnant teen . She already has one child...due in June. She was recently diagnosed with Hep Chad worked in the fields from 4am-6pm. She takes 5-6 classes per month . Her goal is to become a teacher.
Skyler	2.93	9	7.25	12	Fell behind ...goal to return to high school and be on track, and his hard work, meet-up attendance, and motivation helped him reach his goal... returned to school
Felix	0.80	11.5	6.25	10	... best friend passed away and was evicted from his home in the same month (April 2011). Fell behind and dropped outa very motivated student who is not afraid to ask for help ...says his mother is very supportive ... is online and working every day...has never gotten a grade below a C ...plans to return to high school

4 of these 6 students
could not attend
school in a brick-
and-mortar setting.

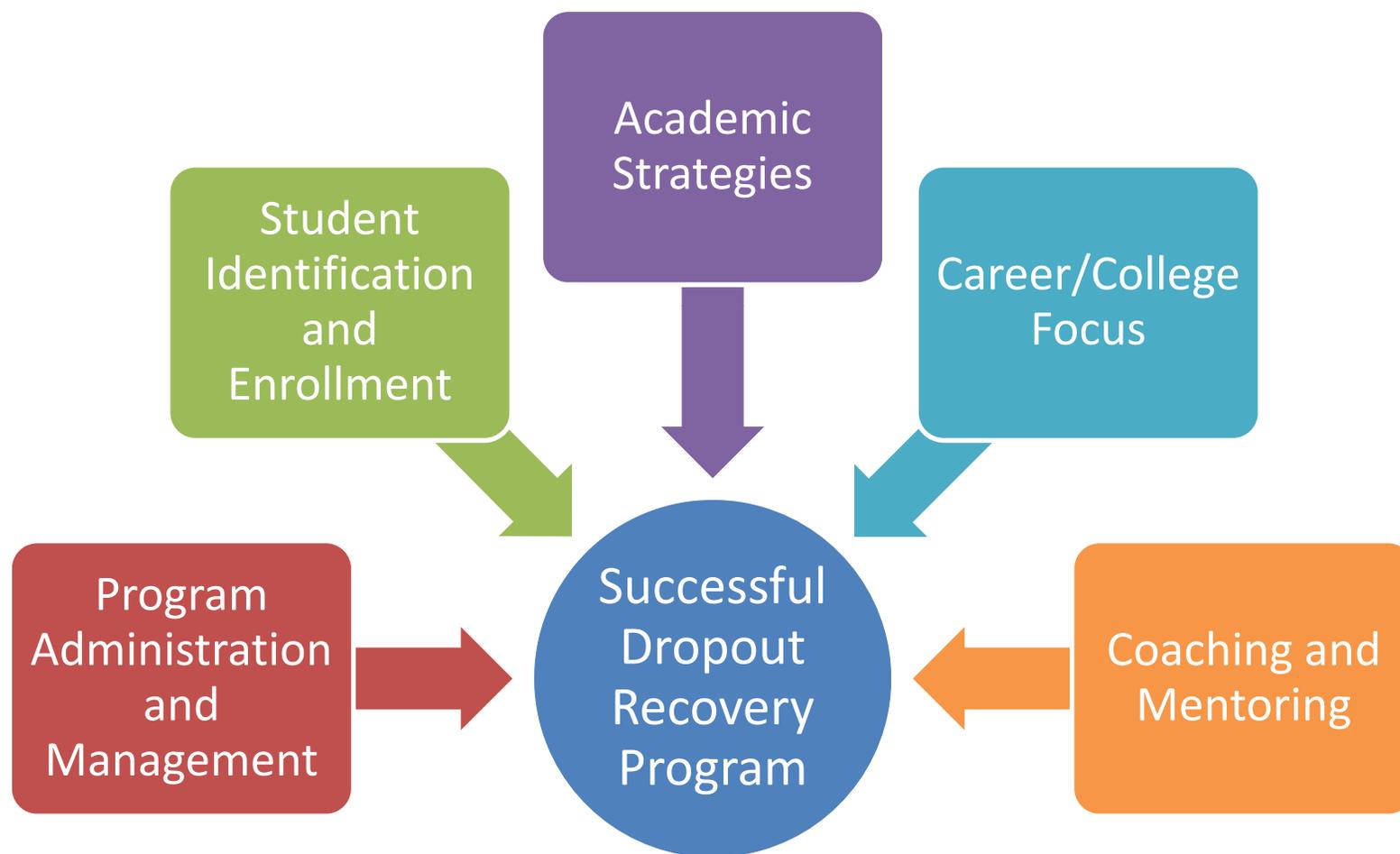
Statistically, none of them fit
the profile of a successful
online student.

But they did succeed. Why?

Success takes more than a username and a password.



Successful dropout recovery takes more than online courses.



Why dropout recovery is important to Michigan

- Today, more than 150,000 high school-age teens in Michigan have left school without earning a diploma.
 - Research shows that ~80% of those students left for non-academic reasons (*Silent Epidemic, 2006*).
 - In our experience, 85% of eligible students we are able to contact re-enroll in school when offered a more flexible, supportive environment.
- Education is a significant economic driver for Michigan.
 - An additional 1000 graduates this year in MI could contribute \$1.2MM *annually* to the state budget.
 - Each non-graduate costs the state, on average, \$300,000 in social services, incarceration, and lost taxes.

Critical issues addressed by HB5267/SB969

- **Permanent Seat-Time Waiver**
 - Districts have to apply to MDE annually to obtain a seat-time waiver to do dropout recovery using online learning. The first waivers were issued in Fall 2011.
- **Required Support**
 - Online dropout recovery programs are not the same as online programs designed for high-performing students. Best practice says these students need local support, connection to social services, and a new set of faces to interact with.
- **Attendance Rules**
 - Current attendance rules for 5-O-B are “one size fits all” for online learning and focuses on logins and contact with school employees. The current rules do not allow for setting targets based on individual students.
- **Funding**
 - Current funding creates a single funded entry period for students or pro-rated funding based on daily attendance; best practice is to allow students to re-enter any time of year and to work year-round and to fund performance.
- **Partnering for Success**
 - Dropout recovery requires that districts develop a significant amount of expertise in serving the unique needs of these students. HB5267/SB969 allows districts to partner with organizations that already have that expertise.