MEETING THE NEEDS OF AT-PROMISE STUDENTS IN A VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Alternative Accountability Policy Forum
San Diego, CA
11.16.2015
Discussion Group Outline

- Introductions
- Challenges v. Opportunities
- The K^{12} Experience
- Open Discussion
Three primary challenges for At Promise students enrolled in virtual education programs ... 

- This is a new learning environment 
- Students are often academically deficient 
- They may not have a strong foundation or support structure 

But this creates some unique opportunities ... 

- Individualized learning 
- Innovative support measures 
- Infection of success
K12 is an education technology company that is driving innovation and advancing the quality of education by delivering state-of-the-art, digital learning platforms and programs to students and school districts across the globe. We are a company of educators, providing instruction, academic services, and learning solutions to public schools and districts, traditional classrooms, blended school programs, and families.

- Founded in 1999
- Leading provider of high quality digital courses and platforms
- 2,000+ schools and districts in all 50 states
- Nation’s largest network of K-12 online school teachers
- More than 100,000 full-time students in 37 states and DC
- Operator of online private schools serving students worldwide in more than 50 countries
- More than 4M courses delivered in the last decade
- **Multiple virtual learning models, including full time and blended, and new programs focused on At Promise students and career pathways**
K^{12} has experienced a significant increase in the number of At Promise students enrolling in virtual schools and programs over the past five years, especially at the high school level. This reality has compelled us to identify and address the significant needs of these students in three key areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Onboarding</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Engagement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Orientation</td>
<td>• Academic</td>
<td>• Instructional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Transition</td>
<td>• Non-Academic</td>
<td>• Relational</td>
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</table>
Strong Start Resources

• Welcome information
• Communication Plan
• Strong Start Website
  – www.k12start.com
  – https://tnva.k12start.com
• Orientation Videos/Parent Resources
• Introduction to Online Learning
• Differentiated Onboarding
• Lifeline
• Walk to Class
Differentiated Onboarding Paths

- Path numbers assigned to all students after data analysis
- Paths guide how to contact and communicate with families

FAST makes early & frequent contact; chunk info

Early contact and monitoring by teacher

General onboarding support
Student Pulse Check

Goal: quick surveys identify struggling families and drive a rapid response

At a Glance

- Sent eight times over the course of the school year, beginning one week prior to school start date
- Emailed to Learning Coaches of active students on Tuesday mornings and will remain open until Thursday afternoons
- A results dashboard becomes available on SharePoint Friday morning
Family Academic Support Team

When

- Developed in 2010 as a pilot program at the Georgia Cyber Academy.

Why

- A significant number of students are withdrawing and not meeting academic goals due to social, emotional, medical issues.

How

- Address challenges, engage students in learning, and hold families accountable to expectations.

Results

- Improvement in retention and academic outcomes of student referred to the program.
Goals of FAST

- Develop the capacity of students and families from a strength-based perspective
- Help students stay on track through early interventions, wrap-around supports and engagement strategies
- Work through non-academic issues with students and families in order to remove barriers to school success
- Creates a positive, welcoming and supportive school climate during Strong Start and throughout the year that allow a range of opportunities for parental involvement
- Develop community partnerships in order to better support students and families with social, emotional, and medical issues
- Foster student connectedness and nurture student motivation
- Improve student retention to promote students to the next grade level and achieve on time graduation
Roles & Responsibilities

- Parental Involvement
- Enrichment Trainings
- Community Building
- Truancy
- Attendance Tracking
- School Policy
- State Regulations
- Mental Health Concerns
- Crisis Training & Response
- Community Referrals
- Student/LC Support
- Intervention
- Action Planning,
  Accountability
- Family Resource Coordinator
- Family Academic Support Liaison
- Compliance Liaison
- Family Engagement Coordinator
- Truancy
- Attendance Tracking
- School Policy
- State Regulations
- Parental Involvement
- Enrichment Trainings
- Community Building
The Year-Round FAST Experience

Strong Start

Whole school supports

FAST Referral & Intake

Outreach & Intervention

Monitor & Evaluation

Coordinate & Communicate

Referral Closure

Whole school supports
### Reasons for a FAST Referral

Referrals are made by teachers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FSL Reason(s) for Referral-1</th>
<th>FRC Reason(s) for Referral-1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Communication</td>
<td>Grief/Divorce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Conference</td>
<td>Behavior Intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No/Low Progress in OLS</td>
<td>Bullying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No/Low Progress in SI</td>
<td>Juvenile Justice Involvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No/Low Attendance to Required CC</td>
<td>Child Protective Services Involvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No State Testing</td>
<td>Financial Hardship/Community Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLS Training</td>
<td>Homeless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Management (organization/multiple students)</td>
<td>Drug/Alcohol Abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive Time Since Last Login</td>
<td>Runaway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failing Multiple Courses - over 50% of course</td>
<td>Severe Medical Concerns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failing Multiple Courses - over 66% of course</td>
<td>Suicidal Threats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Diagnostic Assessment</td>
<td>Suspected Abuse/Neglect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Pregnant or Parenting Teen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Is Student Truant**
- No
- Yes

**If Yes, Number of Truant Days**
- N/A
Tier System

1. School Wide Support
   - FAST intervenes
   - Back On Track Plan

2. Tier 2
   - FAST intervenes
   - Back On Track Plan

3. Tier 3
   - Accountability
   - Family Engagement Points

4. Tier 4
   - Administrative Action

- More supports are put in place at the higher tier levels.
- Students move in both directions based on compliance.
Tiers of Wraparound Support

- School Leadership
- FAST
- Faculty & Staff
- Student & Family
GCA Multi-Year Results from FAST

GCA Percentage of Students Retained by FAST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>SY10-11</th>
<th>SY11-12</th>
<th>SY12-13</th>
<th>SY13-14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Enrollment</td>
<td>5,427</td>
<td>7,265</td>
<td>9,948</td>
<td>14,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade Levels Served by FAST</td>
<td>K-8</td>
<td>K-8</td>
<td>K-12</td>
<td>K-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number served by FAST</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>894</td>
<td>1111</td>
<td>1670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Referrals Retained</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>1,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Referrals Retained</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>*72%</td>
<td>75%</td>
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*12-13 retention rates for referrals declined due to expanded focus coupled with more rigorous academic policies.
Academic growth is higher with FAST

Change in Average Scale Score 2013-2014

- Average of 2013-2014SY Reading Change in SS: 4.77
- Average of 2013-2014SY English Language Arts Change in SS: 3.94
- Average of 2013-2014SY Mathematics Change in SS: 1.69
- Average of 2013-2014SY Mathematics Change in SS: -2.91

*Source: 2015 Chief Academic Office Academic Report – Featured Program

FAST Engaged*  FAST Waitlist
Student Focused Strategies

Know Your Student (from the start)

- Barrier Surveys
- Learning Styles
- Individualized Learning and Transition Plans

Early Engagement

- Establish positive student teacher relationships
- Establish strong culture (student creed, college earn-to-learn tours, Student of the Week/Month/Year)
- Systematic Support (FAST, BOT plans, Strong Start)
- School-Community based collaboration (wraparounds)
- Family Interaction (Village nights)
Making the Most of Instruction

- Creative instructional strategies (think-pair share, UBD, jig-sawing)
- Meaningful = Relevant
- Collaborative and project-based learning
- Professional development (at least bi-weekly)
- Data driven instruction (Weekly PLCs or Data Meetings)

Additional But Foundational

- Internships/Co-ops
- Mentoring/Peer Tutoring
- After school programming (enrichment tools)
- Service Learning
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