

# *Academic Growth and Recovery* *Programs*

McKinney-Vento Grant Initiative



## **Program Summary**

The Academic Growth and Recovery (AGR) Program is a McKinney-Vento Grant initiative that works in collaboration with educators, mental health specialists, and other community agencies. The AGR program at Warren Central High School was developed to provide students experiencing homelessness extra assistance with academics, emotional and social support. The program also helps students at risk for expulsion, truancy-related offenses and poor academic scores with credit recovery, truancy related issues, tutoring and other academic related concerns. A parent meeting is also offered during this time to help connect parents with school and community resources.

Warren's AGR program aims to provide extra programming for students who are currently experiencing homelessness or living in a temporary residency situation. The Academic Growth and Recovery program also has goals to raise the graduation rate and decrease the number of absences, suspensions, expulsions and drop outs in the Metropolitan School District of Warren Township. AGR offers remediation and assistance in the areas of English, Math and Science. Mental health advocates, school safety officers and a variety of community support systems are available to facilitate and teach problem solving skills for students and families. Students are referred to the AGR program by their school administrators. Students will be assigned to attend two consecutive Saturdays or as many that are needed to assist in remediating poor attendance and poor grades.

## **Anger Management and Drug Education**

Anger management and drug education classes are offered during after school hours by a licensed clinical therapist. Anger management and drug education classes take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays and are referred through the administration only.

## **AGR Schedule**

9:00 to 9:45 am Parent Meeting (Connecting school and community resources and activities)

9:00 to 11:00 am ----- (Students transition through Math, English and Science courses)

11:00 am to 12:00 pm ----- (Pro-social skills Workshop)

12:00 pm ----- (End of day announcements/clean-up)

## What We Offer

### Highlights of the Program:

- ❖ McKinney Vento Programming
- ❖ Parent Meetings
- ❖ Built-In Success Program
- ❖ Community Partnerships
- ❖ Anger Management Skills Development
- ❖ Community Service Program
- ❖ Credit Recovery
- ❖ Community Outreach
- ❖ Truancy Intervention
- ❖ Relationship Building
- ❖ Drug Education
- ❖ Breakfast and Lunch are provided
- ❖ Academic Remediation

### The Program

- ❖ Academic Support
  - There are 2 possible “options” for students:
    - Freshman and Sophomores
      - Tutoring
        - Math
        - English
        - Science
      - Teachers from the high school help provide students with greater help on these specific subjects
    - Juniors and Seniors
      - Credit Recovery
        - Students go to a computer lab with a teacher and are able to complete online courses with direct guidance from a teacher
- ❖ Emotional Support
  - Anger management
  - Open atmosphere
    - Students feel comfortable to ask questions to teachers and counselors about various topics
    - Teachers are able to teach and interact with students more freely, building relationships with students identified as “at risk”
  - Workshops assist in positive decision making
- ❖ Parental Support
  - a 30 to 45 minute meeting with parents
    - School resources
    - Academic information for their child
    - Community resources
      - Upcoming community events (if applicable)
      - Employment assistance (through WorkOne)
      - Health and Wellness

## Components of the Program's Framework

- ❖ *Cross Cohort Analysis*—Social workers and attendance secretaries examine “F” list, ECA failure list, six unexcused absences report, ten or more unexcused absences list, and weekly homeless list
- ❖ *Simplified Student Identification*—From the cohort date, each cohort may refer twenty-six student per month for AGR. The major focus is Math and English Remediation, (Algebra and English) for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders.
  - The maximum for each Saturday will be 52 students.
- ❖ *Tracks Homeless Student Progress*—Tracks academic and attendance progress for all homeless students
- ❖ *Manageable Classroom Numbers*—Manageable classroom sizes are conducive for remediation and counseling classes.
- ❖ *Live Parent Contact*—Parent and/or guardian must be contacted at least 8 days prior to assignment (secretaries/social worker interns must make phone calls to parent).
  - Parent(s)/guardian(s) are encouraged to attend a parent workshop at the beginning of each AGR date
- ❖ *Credit Recovery Assistance/Junior and Senior APEX*—Junior and Seniors work in a computer lab, completing online classes, in turn granting credits back to the students.
- ❖ *Skill Development Workshops*—Stop Over INC., offers community service hours as an alternative to suspension. Students are still expected to complete remediation course work as well as their school work and community service during their time at Stop Over.
- ❖ *Truancy Intervention Program*—Students are assigned to AGR as an alternative to a formal referral or hearing to the Marion County Juvenile Justice System. During the SUCCESS period, students will be meet with a support team that may include the following staff members: social work interns, dean, secretary, counselor, and probation officer. Students will meet for 15 to 20 minutes a week for follow up. The sessions will be assigned per each cohort.

## Teacher's Feedback on Previous Years Experiences

- ❖ Having the ability to personally connect with students at risk
- ❖ The content is reinforced through the teachers
- ❖ Students have the ability to receive education pertaining to social issues and topics
- ❖ Students seemed to feel comfortable and worked well in all sessions
- ❖ Rules and order were established in an effective manner in order to ensure that the students were productive
- ❖ The time allotted was convenient
- ❖ Teachers were able to be more flexible with instruction
- ❖ Students experiencing homelessness were assisted in their efforts to graduate on time

## Current Expansions

- Lakeside Elementary
  - High School students mentor to elementary students experiencing homelessness
  - Program Goals:
    - Mentorship
    - Tutoring
    - Pro-social skills
    - Relationship Building

## Planning Timeline

## ❖ Program Planning

- January 2015
  - Completed Community Asset Map
  - Met with Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP) Liaison
  - Met with the Homeless Liaison Monthly
  - SWAT Analysis Completed
- February 2015
  - Completed Community Asset Map
  - Met with the Homeless Liaison Monthly
  - Point in Time count
  - Surveyed staff on McKinney Vento provisions and communications resulting in the creation and analysis of a detailed report
- March 2015
  - Met with the Homeless Liaison Monthly
  - Completed McKinney Vento Audit and Checklist of Compliance
  - Surveyed staff on McKinney Vento provisions and communications provided detailed report
- April 2015
  - Met with the Homeless Liaison Monthly
  - Plan for implications of CAM and launch PSA's
  - Completed and launched Student Accessibility Plan
  - Surveyed staff on McKinney Vento provisions and communications provided detailed report
- May 2015
  - Met with the Homeless Liaison Monthly
  - Plan for implications of CAM and launch PSA's
  - Completed and launched Student Accessibility Plan
  - Summer Engagement Plan launched and completed

## ❖ Program Implementation

- January 2015 through April 2015
  - AGR Program events throughout the months of January to May
  - Individual Counseling and Support
    - Completed 108's documentation per encounter
  - Anger Management and Drug Education Classes
- April 2015 through June 2015
  - SUCCESS Meeting with EOL Students Experiencing Homelessness
  - 5 Public Service Announcements
    - No Place to Go—Hosted by James Taylor and Kayla Willoughby. Will air week April 18<sup>th</sup>
  - EOL Successful Women Parent meeting at the Warren Township Trustee Office. All Identified Students Experiencing Homelessness.