

# Developing a System of Prevention and Intervention

Begin the process by working with your colleagues to sketch plans or procedures on separate sheets of paper for (1) identifying students in need of extra support and attention; (2) monitoring such students intensively; (3) providing mentors, “good friends,” or other adult support to these students; and (4) establishing intervention programs. List programs that already exist and note whether they need to be modified or expanded and, if so, in what ways.

For new programs, state the specific goal and then address the following questions:

## 1. Identification

- What criteria, data, or information will we use to identify incoming students who need extra attention/
- Who will be responsible for gathering and evaluating this information?
- When will this be done?
- What obstacles need to be confronted?

## 2. Monitoring

- What kinds of ongoing information or data about identified students will be collected?
- How often will the information be gathered?
- What will be the vehicle for entering and transmitting the information?
- Who will be asked to provide it?
- Who will gather and evaluate it?
- How promptly will it be reviewed?
- What obstacles need to be confronted?
- What are some strategies for overcoming these?

## 3. Mentoring

- What kind of mentoring program is needed in our school?
- How can we ensure that every identified students has a “best friend” adult?
- Who should be recruited to fill such roles: certified personnel only? Clerical staff? Custodial staff? Kitchen workers? Parents and community volunteers? Also, what guidelines, orientation, or training should be provided to them?
- Who should provide or lead the training?
- What should be the procedure for pairing students with mentors? Should meetings between students and mentors be structured or allowed to develop naturally?
- What communication tree should exist for mentors who become aware of problems?
- What obstacles need to be confronted?
- What are some strategies for overcoming these?

#### **4. Intervention**

- What is a reasonable and specific goal for each prevention or improvement program that we plan to implement?
- What resources are available for such programs (money, personnel, space, time, and so on)?
- What criteria should be established for selecting students for the programs?
- Should the program be mandatory or optional?
- What benchmark or standard do we hope to meet with each intervention, and what assessment and evaluation data will determine the program's success?
- How often will each intervention program be evaluated?
- What obstacles need to be confronted?
- What are some strategies for overcoming these?