# Attainment Over Time what you should know

# Parent Engagement and School Dropout Prevention



# WHY SHOULD WE FOCUS ON ATTAINMENT?

 $\checkmark$  Students and their parents need to have shared beliefs and understanding about long-term success and what it takes.

✓ Most children depend upon their parents for guidance and encouragement.

## HOW IS ATTAINMENT LINKED TO SCHOOL SUCCESS?

 $\checkmark$  Chances for success are improved when adults offer children, starting at a young age, positive expectations and aspirations about what they can do and achieve.

- ✓ In many middle schools, students already face the challenge of tracking to vocational or college bound courses.
- $\checkmark$  High school students and their parents especially need a strong understanding of career options and what's required to pursue them.

## **HELPING PARENTS**

#### WHAT SCHOOLS CAN DO

**Help** families understand and prepare for transitions into elementary, middle, high school, and beyond.

**Maintain** high expectations for children and convey them to parents and students.

**Give** parents an opportunity, especially with middle and high school students, to be a part of selecting their children's courses.

**Help** parents and students connect course selection to educational and career aspirations and future hopes.

**Organize** college and career exploration activities for students and their families.

### WHAT COMMUNITY AGENCIES CAN DO

**Inspire** families to set high aspirations for their children by introducing them to successful role models possibly through interactions with parents and community members with successful careers.

**Help** parents and students understand available living wage career options and the pathways for gaining the necessary skills.

**Provide** counseling about applying to college and obtaining financial aid, especially when parents did not graduate from college.

#### WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

**Talk** regularly to your child about the value of education and its importance to their future.

**Set and maintain** high expectations for your children's achievement while keeping abreast of what is involved in reaching those aspirations.

**Reach out** for help and advice from parents, schools and community agencies about how to apply for college or ensure your child enrolls in an appropriate vocational education program.

**Seek out** and take advantage of programs that expose your child to educational and career opportunities in the community.

Parent Engagement Toolkit | www.americaspromise.org/parentengagement