

Let's Keep Our Kids in School

Nationally, only 57 percent of youth with disabilities graduated from high school in 2001-02 according to the U.S. Department of Education (2002). This is more than twice the dropout rate of students who do not have disabilities. Students with emotional or behavioral disorders (EBD) and students with learning disabilities (LD) are at greatest risk of dropping out (Wagner & Cameto, 2004).

Young people who drop out of school face a difficult future. They are more likely to:

- be unemployed;
- live in poverty;
- be in the prison system;
- earn about half the income of high school graduates;
- have children at an early age;
- use illegal drugs, tobacco, or both; or
- be overweight.

(Hair, Ling, & Cochran, 2003)

For tips on helping middle school and high school students with disabilities in school, please see the PACER handouts:

Dropout Prevention and Youth with Disabilities: Strategies for Parents of Middle School Students,
PHP-c139

Dropout Prevention and Youth with Disabilities: Strategies for Parents of High School Students,
PHP-c140