Dropout Crisis

46,100 students did not graduate from Illinois high schools in 2009; the lost lifetime earnings for that class of dropouts alone total nearly $12 billion.¹

Nationwide, a student gives up on school every 26 seconds; this adds up to one million dropouts per year. ²
This summit focused on five promises:

- Opportunities to Help Others
- Caring Adults
- Effective Education
- A Healthy Start
- Safe Places
The Benefits of Mentoring Programs

Individuals in a mentoring program are 53% less likely to skip school. ³

A study in northern Virginia shows that students who participated in a mentoring program were 10.6% more likely to graduate from high school than students who did not participate. ⁴

At Urban Prep Academy in Chicago, the Fellows Mentoring Program helped ensure a 100% graduation rate for this year’s senior class of at-risk students.⁵
Our Ideal Mentoring Program
Overview

During the school year, the mentee will meet with his or her mentor for one hour per week. There will be one-on-one sessions as well as group sessions. Group sessions will consist of mentor-mentee pairs. A successful mentoring program would include parental support and involvement.
Involvement

**Mentees:** middle school students; the program is targeted toward but not limited to at-risk students (At-risk defined by the school’s discretion)

**Mentors:** high school students

**Supervisors:** school or district faculty members

**Community Involvement:** community leaders and speakers will lead activities
One-on-one Sessions

Every week is geared towards developing a different set of skills decided upon by the supervisor; academic help would also be provided every session.
Group Sessions

During group sessions mentees will:

• Learn how to incorporate America’s Promise’s Five Promises into their daily lives
• Hear from community members
• Experience community service opportunities
We would like to recommend that the Illinois State Board of Education encourage schools to implement a tailored mentoring program for the purposes of increasing student achievement and graduation rates.
References

1 www.all4ed.org/files/illinois.pdf
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4 www.fairfaxyouth.org/mentoring.xml
5 www.urbanprep.org/fellows/media/upFellowsSheet09e.pdf