

Bridges Achievement Planning Framework

Bridges provides school districts, communities and state organizations with achievement planning services. Our products, training, and consultative services are customized to enable educational organizations to deal with unique local issues in order to drive student and school achievement.

Bridges prescribes local solutions according to the following framework of achievement planning services. Each higher numbered stage includes all of the attributes of the ones below it. The most common planning program in North America is at Stage II.

Stage Five Planning Program – Program Effectiveness – Planning systems are used as key strategies for driving school achievement. Accountability systems are in place for quarterly review of targeted outcomes. A district Achievement Planning Leadership Team meets quarterly to share best practices and use recent data to improve their achievement plan. Achievement planning programs are regarded as key tactics to drive measurable improvements in graduation rate and student achievement.

Stage Four Planning Program – Program Reach – Planning systems are in place to make planning a process and to engage more people in the use of student plans. Parents use student plans as the key communication tool for staying connected to middle and high schools. Teachers use student plans to make existing curriculum more relevant and to create interdisciplinary teaching themes. Counselors use student plans to make the course and pathway selection more meaningful. Peers use student plans to help younger students review and update their school plans. Administrators use student plans to ‘turn the corner’ with problematic students.

Stage Three Planning Program – Skilled Students – Outcome-based planning instruction is available to all students in targeted grades, organized in a developmental scope and sequence. Student demonstrate skills in a variety of self-managed planning skills, including course selection, post-secondary planning, test preparation, career/life transitions, financial management, and presentation skills. A portfolio/planner program is integral to this program stage.

Stage Two Planning Program – Informed Students – A career center is available to students where they can get up-to-date information about post-secondary programs and institutions, financial aid, future career possibilities and labor market realities. Expert assistance is available to students upon request. Information events, like career days or post-secondary forums, are provided at designated times during the school year.

Stage One Planning Program – Assessments – Students are given one or some formal assessments to determine considerations for future education and/or employment. Assessments include interest inventories, aptitude tests, work values assessments, and personality type tests.

Bridges works with districts, community agencies and/or state organizations to determine a present position in achievement planning programs. We assist them in defining a desired position three years into the future. Finally, we prescribe a customized planning system of products, training and consultation to ‘close the gap’ between the present and desired positions.