Using A Systems Approach to Provide Effective Interventions for At-Risk Students

Teresse Lewis, L.C.S.W, P.P.S.C
Objectives

- Identify ways to implement an effective intervention for at-risk students
- Empower learners with strategies to overcome barriers to implementation
Individualized Systems

- Problems presented by students in today’s schools are much too complex and multidimensional to be solved by interventions that target solely the individual.
Our Critical Role

After the family, the school is the most influential force in a child’s development and may be the only contact for counseling assistance the child may encounter.
Where do I start?

- Equity
  - Eboni’s Story
- Maslows
  - Matthew’s Story
- Data and Patterns
  - Landon’s Story
- Understanding the community
  - Carlos

START WHERE YOU ARE.
USE WHAT YOU HAVE.
DO WHAT YOU CAN.

-ARTHUR ASHE
Family Systems

- Including all family members as an equal part of the problem solving process.

- It is our job to negotiate the interests of the child, family and school.
Individualized Systems

- Problems presented by students in today’s schools are much too complex and multidimensional to be solved by interventions that target solely the individual.
Systems Change. Barriers are removed.

- Systemic school counselors advocate for systems change, implement systemic interventions, and remove systemic barriers for students, thereby helping to create a more collaborative school climate.
Using a systems perspective, school counselors work with the family and the student to provide the support they need to not only change behaviors at school but also help change the family’s current homeostasis in the home.
School counselors who use interventions based on a systems perspective can offer powerful solutions for helping parents promote effective ways of managing children in school settings and family homes.
Where do I start?

- Strengthening Collaboration Skills
- Strengthening Assessment Skills for School Climate and Culture
- Being prepared to function in a variety of roles to support the academic, career, and personal/social development of students.
Roadblocks

- Lack of knowledge in family and systems perspective
- Lack of parental involvement
  - Lack of administrative support
- Time constraints in implementation
  - Confidentiality Issues
- Cultural Issues
Overcoming Roadblocks

- Positive reason for initial contact
- Taking a position of learning rather than teaching
- The seed of relationship
- Engage community organizations
Expand your reach!  
Increase your impact!