

# Meriden Public Schools

## On-Track for Graduation and Postsecondary Success

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Assistant Superintendent

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Director of Secondary School Leadership

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Assistant Principal Maloney High School

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Assistant Principal Platt High School



# District Overview

## Our Schools

- 8 elementary schools
- 3 middle schools
- 2 high schools
- Venture Academy
- Success Academy
- CCC Program

## Our Students

- 8,700 students
- 75% students identify as students of color
  - 3% American Indian
  - 2% Asian
  - 16% Black
  - 46% Hispanic/Latino
  - 10% Multiple Ethnicities
  - 22% White
- 77% free/reduced price meals
- 19% SPED
- 17% Multilingual learners

A photograph of four students in a library. On the left, a young woman with long blonde hair is looking down at an open book. Next to her is a young woman with dark hair in braids, also looking at a book. To the right, a young man with dark hair is holding a book and looking towards the camera. On the far right, another young man with dark hair is holding a book and looking towards the camera. They are all standing in front of bookshelves filled with books. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

***Regardless of socioeconomic status or prior learning experiences, all students must be able to access digital resources to expand their world.***

# Board Policies

Policy 5005

## GOALS FOR STUDENTS

The Board and staff shall work together to establish for each student an environment conducive to learning and shall aspire to the following goals regarding students.

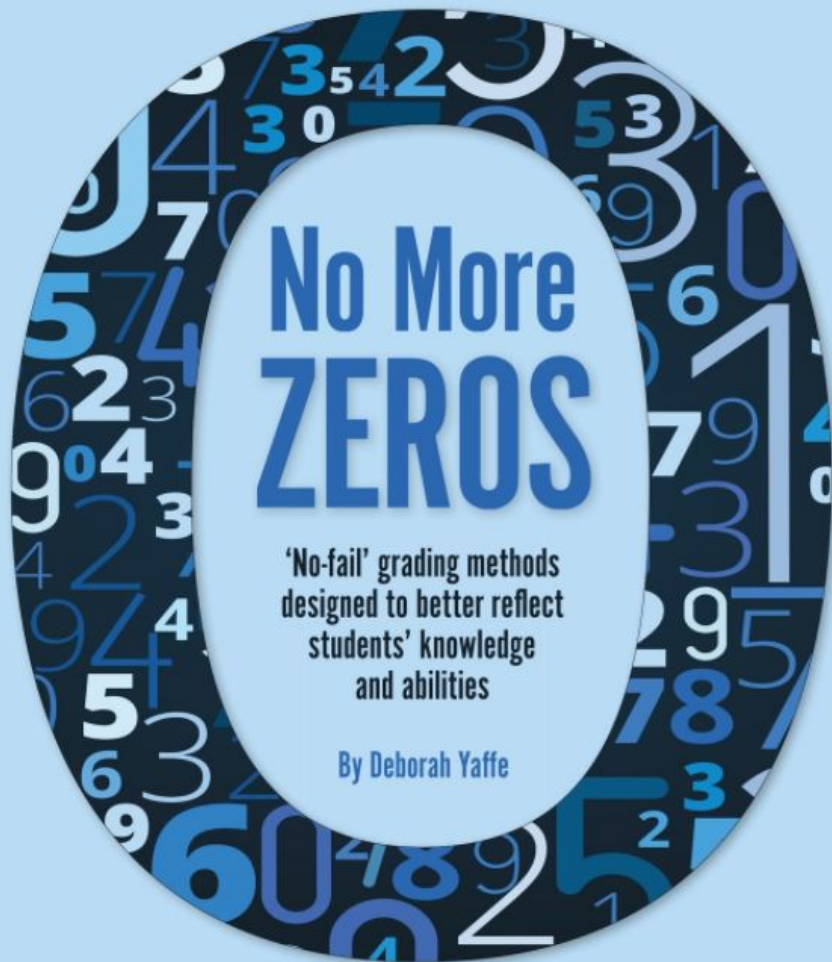
to provide a student-centered learning environment to meet the individual needs of each student according to his or her specific background, capabilities, learning style, interests and aspirations;

to provide an educational program which will lead to college and career readiness for all students;

to provide a technology and resource rich learning environment;

to provide opportunities for learning outside the traditional classroom and school building (e.g., online courses, independent study, internships and externships);

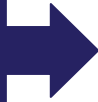




*“Giving a kid a zero takes the kid off the hook. The consequence of getting a zero should be doing the work.”*

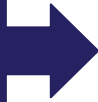
# Growth Mindset

ABANDON

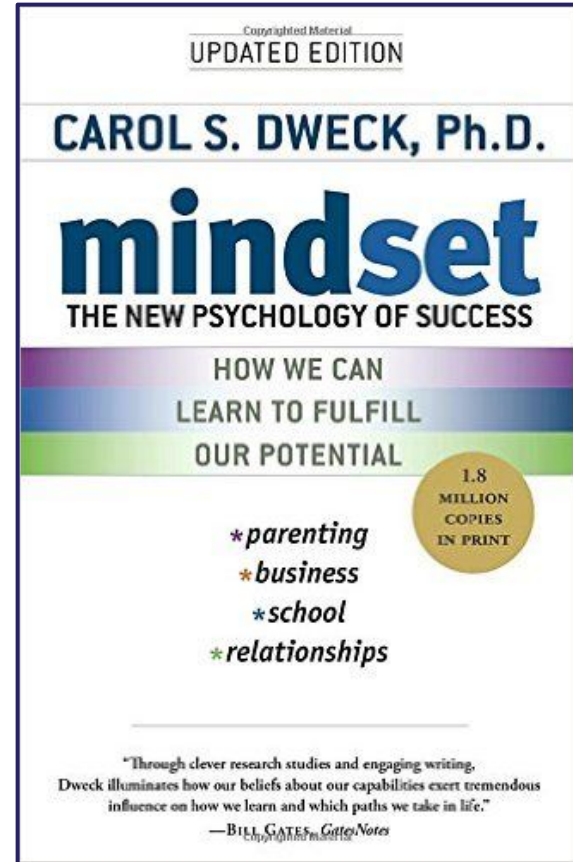


A Fixed  
Mindset

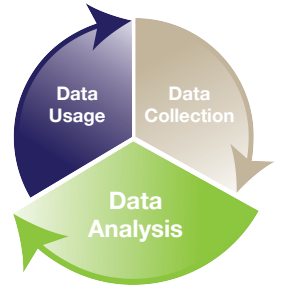
ADOPT



A Growth  
Mindset



# Identify At-Risk Grade 9 Students



- Attendance
- Grades
- Bs or Better
- Discipline Referrals
- Climate Survey Data
- Social Emotional Data





# **Meriden Public Schools Partnership with the RISE Network**

# Objectives and Agenda

## Our Objectives

- Provide an in depth look into the MPS and Connecticut RISE Network partnership.
- View strategies and procedures that both high schools use to promote on-track achievement and engagement in and beyond Grade 9.
- View strategies and procedures used to increase college and career readiness, access, and success.
- Share and view data that highlights MPS and RISE successes.

## Our Agenda

1. Background of Meriden Public Schools
2. Introduction to the RISE Network
3. Freshman Success Strategies
4. Postsecondary Success Strategies
5. Historical Data
6. Next Steps for MPS and RISE Partnership



# RISE by 5 Focus Areas



## On-Track and Postsecondary Culture

**School communities** share a singular focus on results. Educators, students, and families work together to keep freshman success, on-track achievement, and college and career readiness at the forefront.



## Targeted Transition Supports

**Students** benefit from targeted transition supports in Grade 9 and in preparation for postsecondary pathways. These supports invest in critical moments, key staff, and focused student subgroups.



## Data-Driven Educator Collaboration

**Teams** engage in students-centered team meetings, leveraging data tools, protocols, and educator expertise to take a holistic approach to meet individual needs of all students.



## Equitable Educator Practice

**Educators** receive coaching, resources, and support to invest in educators as professionals, pursuing new ideas to create more rigorous, engaging, and inclusive classroom and school environments.



## Cross-School Learning

**Network partners** come together across schools and districts to learn, grow, and improve. Teachers, counselors, and administrators share successes, challenges, and ideas to advance our shared goals and collective impact.

# Meriden Public Schools and RISE Network



#### 4 On-track Specialist



## 2 College and Career Coordinators



### 3 Middle School On-Track Specialist



## 9 Summer Bridge Employees



## 11 College Prep Academy Employees



## 6 FAFSA Team Members



# Selection of at-risk students middle school process

- Implementation of middle school RISE program at 3 middle schools
- Students are identified by end of 8th grade year based on at-risk indicators. (attendance, behavior, and academics)
- Students are placed on either an-risk team or receive a non-teamed 9th grade schedule
- All students are offered the opportunity to attend Summer Bridge Program
- Continuously monitor caseloads and student progress throughout the year to make data informed decisions





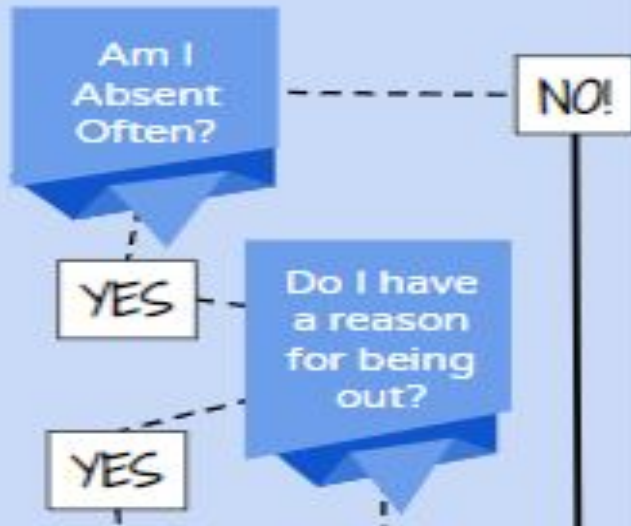
# Meriden High School Summary

## Grade 9 - Freshman Success

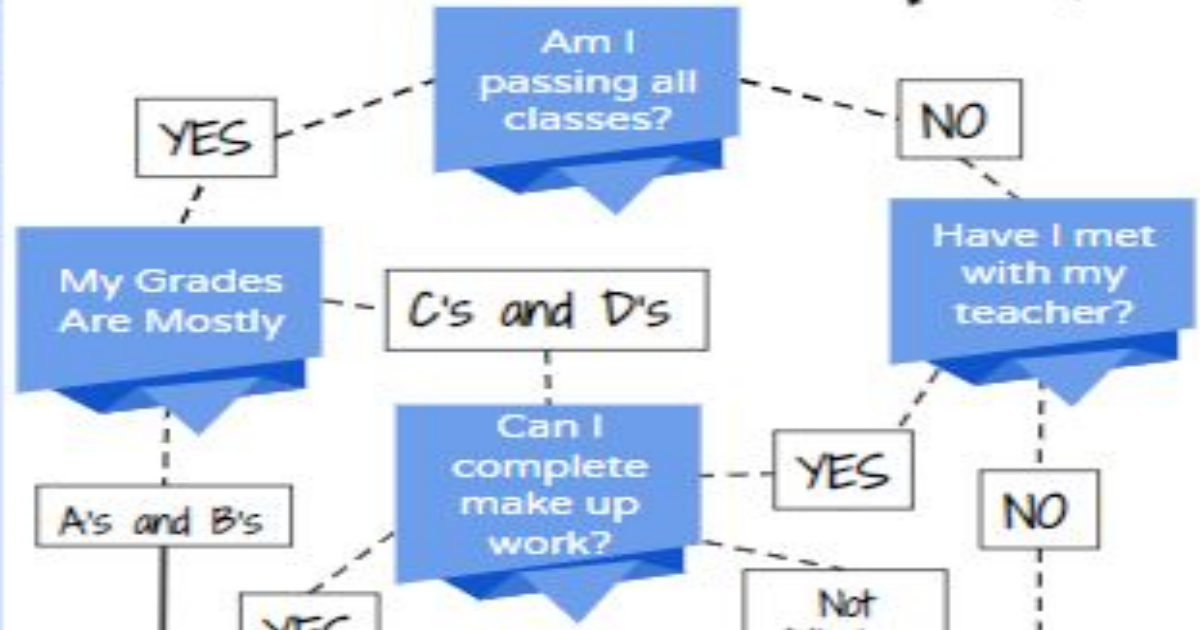


Am I on Track?

## ATTENDANCE



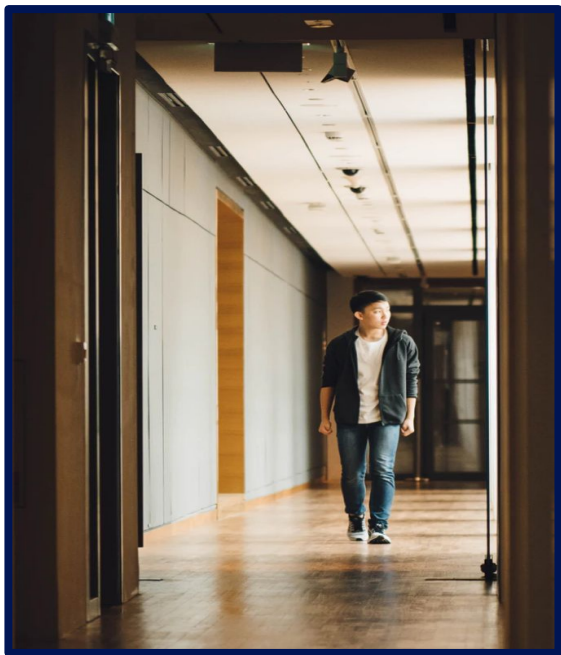
## Coursework & Grades



## Freshman Success Strategies



# Grade 9 Student Experience



## Student Experiences:

- Increased independence and responsibility
- More anonymity
- Social pressures
- Increased workload

## New School Structures:

- New school building, staff, and peers
- Different schedule, routines, and policies
- Introduction of credits
- New requirements (e.g., seat time, passing courses to earn credits/promote)

# Grade 9 Summer Bridge

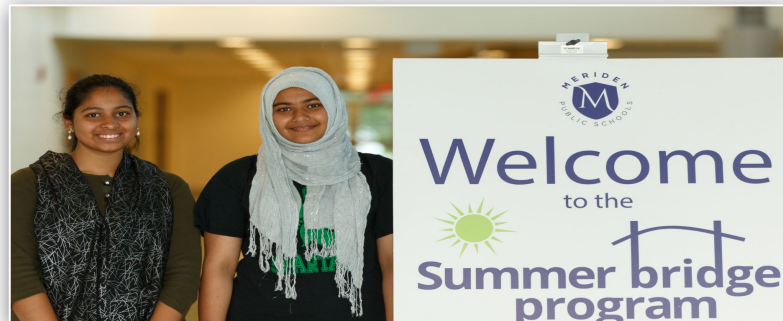


[Toolkit](#)

**Strategy:** No-cost summer transition program for rising freshmen at the high school, focusing on community connections, interdisciplinary skills, and high school readiness.

**Participants:** Rising Grade 9 students and Grade 9 educators.

**Timing:** 2 to 4 weeks in July or August.



# On-Track Coordinators



[Toolkit](#)



**Strategy:** Youth development professionals supporting a targeted freshman caseload, serving as students' coach and champion, and liaising with students, caregivers, teachers, and administrators.

**Participants:** Youth development professionals with caseloads of ~60 Grade 9 students.



# Grade 9 On-Track Data Teams

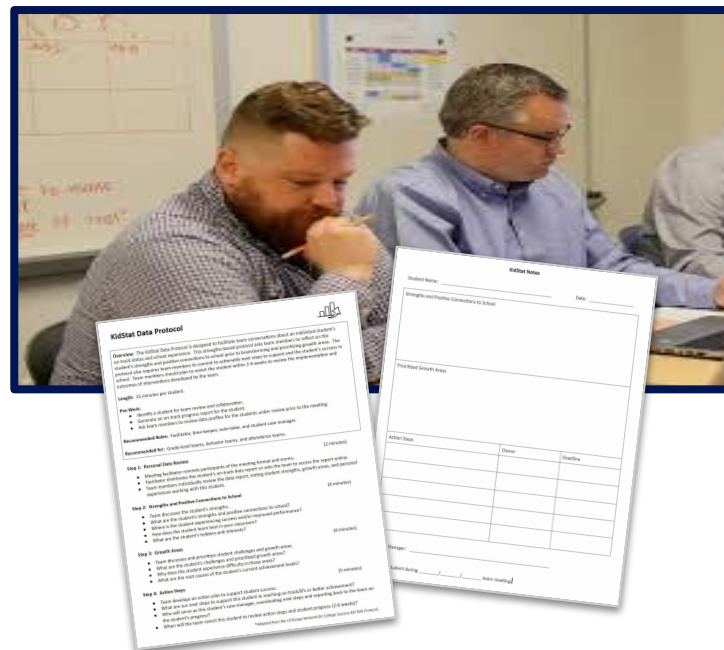


Toolkit

**Strategy:** Weekly student-centered data team meetings engaging Grade 9 team members in protocolled, evidence-based, and solutions-oriented conversations. [Strategy requires teaming of Grade 9 students and educators.]

**Participants:** All Grade 9 educators (teachers, support staff, administrator).

**Timing:** Weekly data team meetings.



# On-Track Conferences

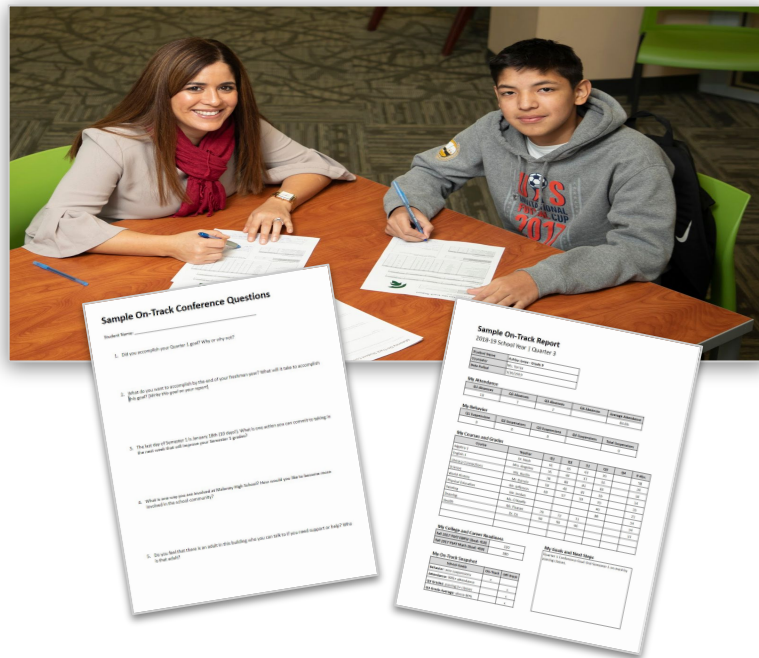


[Toolkit](#)

**Strategy:** Quarterly one-on-one goal-setting conversations between students and a caring adult guided by a student data profile and discussion protocol.

**Participants:** Students and diverse staff (incl. teachers, administrators, support staff, security guards, etc.).

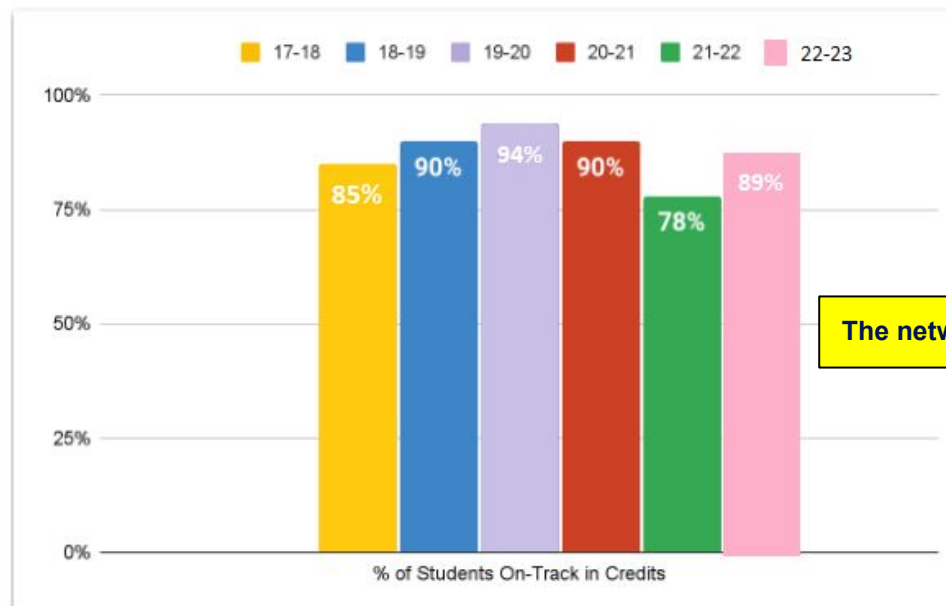
**Timing:** Quarterly conferences 3-4 weeks prior to the quarter close.







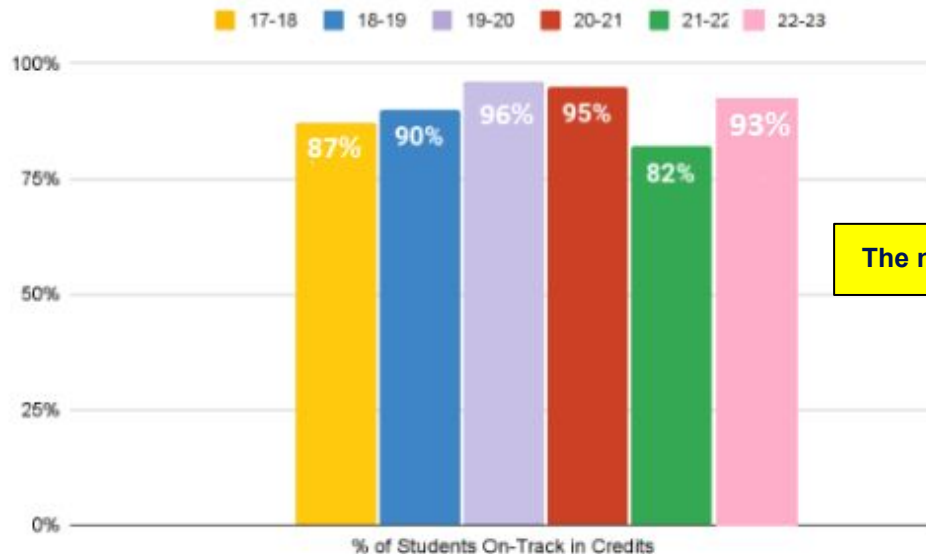
# G9 Historical End of Year On-Track Rates



**Platt EOY On-Track Rate after summer school interventions was 92%**  
**Promotion Rate including middle school credits 94%**



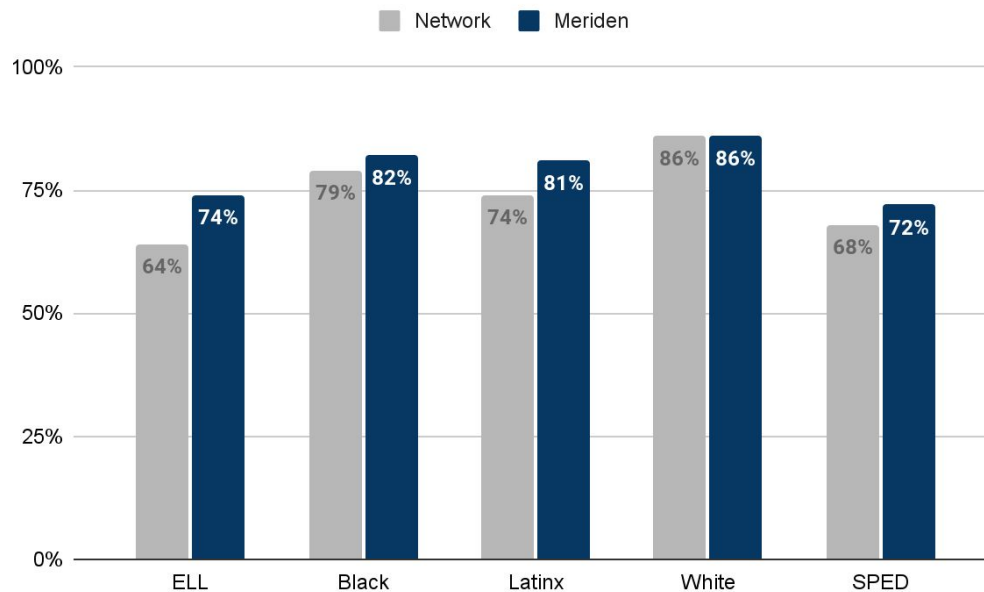
# G9 Historical End of Year On-Track Rates



**Maloney EOY On-Track Rate after summer school interventions was 94%**  
**Promotion Rate including middle school credits 96.5%**

# Freshman Success Subgroup Analysis

Several schools in the RISE Network placed some focus on our most vulnerable populations. Shown here is Meriden's percentages in comparison analysis to other schools in our network.





# Postsecondary Success Strategies



# Postsecondary Data Team Meetings

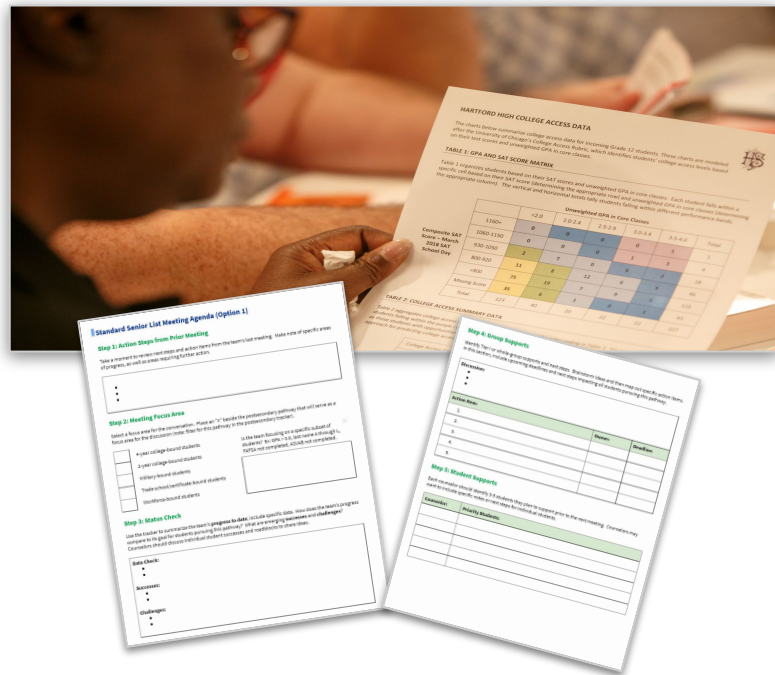


Toolkit

**Strategy:** Recurring postsecondary data team meetings to monitor and support student progress identifying postsecondary plans and completing milestones to achieve their goals.

**Participants:** Grade 12 administrator, counselors, and college/career coordinator.

**Timing:** Biweekly/monthly data team meetings.

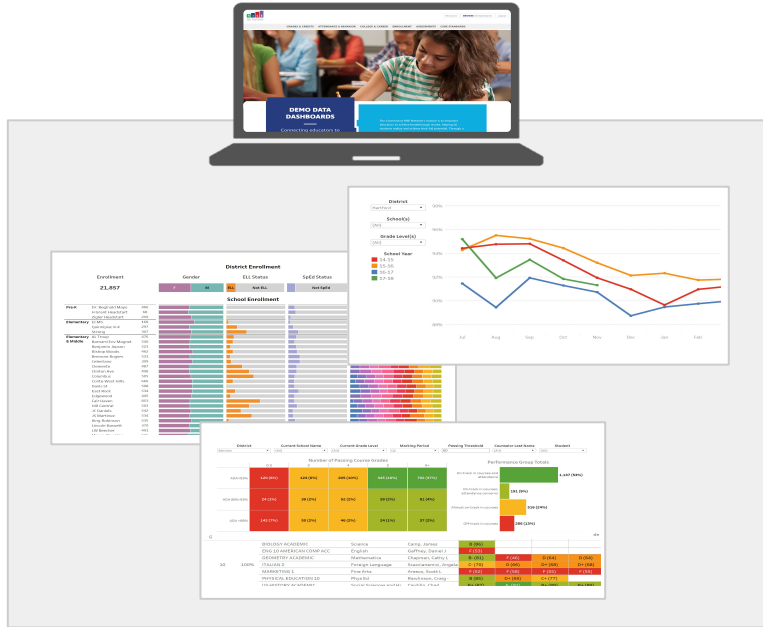




# Data Tools



[Demo](#)



**Strategy:** Secure and user-friendly data tools allowing educators to understand trends over time and across subgroups, and explore the strengths and needs of individual students.

**Participants:** Data tools provided to educators based on district permissioning standards.



# Postsecondary Planning Meetings and Data

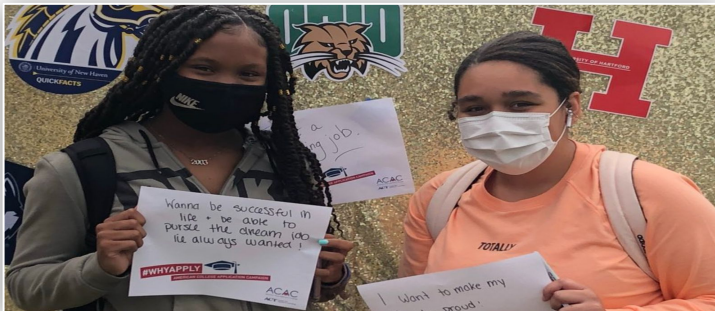
Success High School Grade 12 Student Lists									
Views	Student Name	Special Ed	English Learner	Counselor	Graduation Concerns	Total Credits Earned	SAT EBRW	SAT Math	Active Plan
Default	Find student...	Filter	Filter	Filter	Filter	Filter	Filter	Filter	Filter
Choose Columns	Anderson, Maximili...	Not Sped	Not ELL	Marco Gonzalez		21	684	395	4-Year College
Download	Anderson, Kash	Not Sped	ELL	Marco Gonzalez	⚠	21	396	334	Workforce
Filters	Anderson, Remingt...	Not Sped	ELL	Kiyona Green	⚠	21.5	336	664	Unsure
Add Filter	Anderson, Moses	Not Sped	ELL	Marco Gonzalez	⚠	18.5	712	508	Alternative Plan
Key Insights	Clark, Harley	Not Sped	ELL	James Brown		19	479	759	No Plan
Postsecondary Plan	Clark, Maverick	Not Sped	Not ELL	James Brown	⚠	19	330	352	No Plan
	Clark, Emery	Not Sped	ELL	James Brown		22.5	699	679	Workforce
	Davis, Johnny	Not Sped	Not ELL	Kiyona Green		20	481	677	Trade or Technical
	Davis, Lauren	Not Sped	Not ELL	Abby Smith		18	427	466	2-Year College
	Garcia, Matthias	Not Sped	Not ELL	Marco Gonzalez	⚠	20	473	321	Alternative Plan
	Garcia, Ibrahim	Not Sped	Not ELL	Abby Smith	⚠	15	650	324	No Plan
	Garcia, Josue	Not Sped	ELL	Abby Smith	⚠	20.5	422	375	Unsure
	Garcia, Antonio	Not Sped	Not ELL	Abby Smith	⚠	0	437	313	Trade or Technical
	Garcia, Gideon	Not Sped	Not ELL	Kiyona Green		22	475	358	2-Year College
	Garcia, Meadow	Not Sped	ELL	Kiyona Green	⚠	20	359	626	No Plan
	Harris, Jace	Not Sped	ELL	Tony Grey		16.5	524	722	Military
	Harris, Destiny	Not Sped	Not ELL	Abby Smith	⚠	0	411	317	Workforce
	Harris, Jasmine	Not Sped	Not ELL	James Brown	⚠	21	653	725	Unsure
	Jackson, Emmett	Not Sped	Not ELL	Marco Gonzalez	⚠	16.5	404	610	2-Year College
	Jackson, Karen	Not Sped	Not ELL	James Brown		19	684	395	4-Year College

Information will appear here when you hover your mouse over parts of the app.

# Postsecondary Planning Campaigns



[Toolkit](#)



**Strategy:** Intentional activities and events during seniors' first semester to promote postsecondary plan development and milestone completion (e.g., FAFSA, college applications).

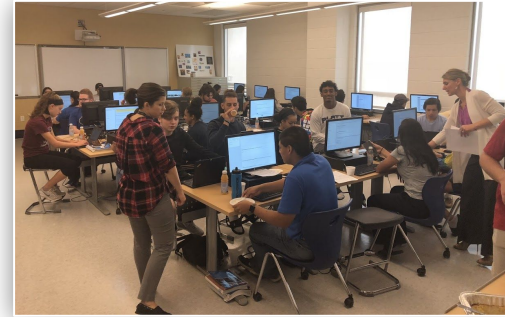
**Participants:** Grade 12 students and families, counselors, college/career coordinators, and administrators.

**Timing:** Activities concentrated in fall and winter.



# College Application Events

- Common Application Workshops
- Application Bootcamp
- Military Roundtable
- Alumni Panel
- Community College Application Day
- Scholarship Fair
- FAFSA Campaign
- Personalized Apprenticeship Roundtable

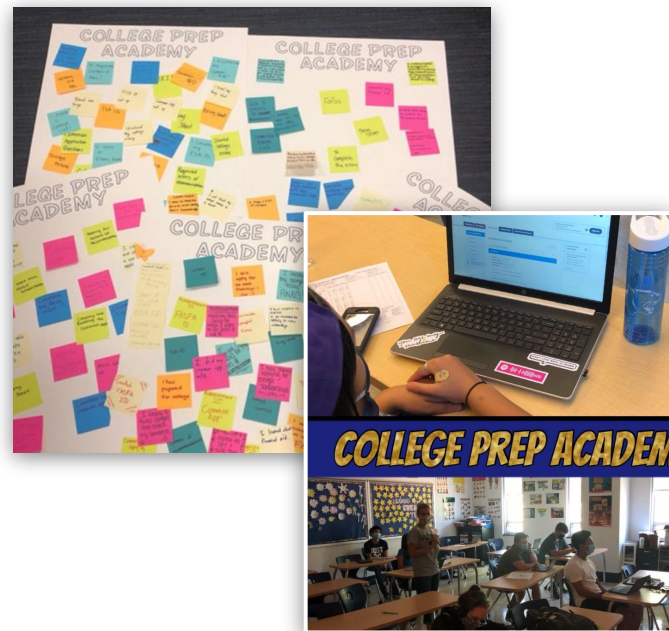


# College & Career Summer Academies

**Strategy:** No-cost summer programs to help rising seniors form their postsecondary plans and get a head start on access milestones (e.g., college essays, resumes).

**Participants:** Rising Grade 12 students, counselors, college/career coordinators.

**Timing:** 1 to 2 weeks in August.





# Senior Signing Day



[Toolkit](#)



**Strategy:** Year-end celebrations to recognize seniors' plans to enlist in the military, join the workforce, or enter higher education or trade/technical programs.

**Participants:** Grade 12 students, staff, and families. (Grade 11 in audience)

**Timing:** May-June event.



# Summer Melt Texting Campaigns

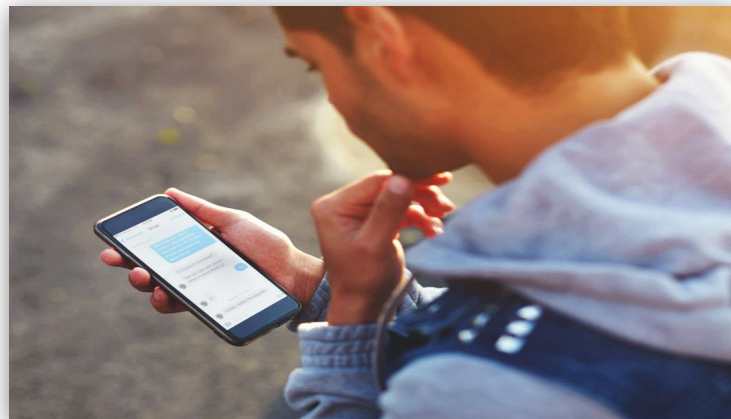


[Toolkit](#)

**Strategy:** Summer texting campaigns providing recent graduates with nudges and reminders to help students complete postsecondary enrollment milestones.

**Participants:** Seniors post-graduation, counselors, college/career coordinator.

**Timing:** June-August.



# Maloney High School Case Study

## Freshman Success Case Study

Maloney High School | Meriden Public Schools



### MHS CASE STUDY



### Part I: Establishing the School Context

In 2015, Maloney High School entered the final year of a multimillion-dollar renovation project, transforming the school site into a facility that more closely resembles a college campus than a comprehensive high school. As with any major multi-year and complex undertaking, the renovations presented new opportunities and some unexpected challenges that required patience and flexibility. After several years navigating construction barricades, noisy equipment, and temporary trailers, the renovations resulted in a new and state-of-the-art learning environment. Even when it can be hard to envision or see past the immediate obstacles, Maloney's renovations demonstrated how determination and adaptability can lead to new and exciting outcomes and possibilities.

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# Platt Highlights!



## Platt

- G9 Black/African American students had the same on-track rate at the end of S1 as all of G9. While Hispanic/Latino students were within 2 percentage points of G9 on-track.
- 91% of summer bridge participants were on-track at the end of S1.
- Exceeded goals established for ensuring every student had a postsecondary plan to completion and all interested 2/4 college potentials, applied to at least 1 college at 99-100%
- Summer Academy FAFSA goal was exceeded this week. Currently 78% of students have completed their FAFSA.





# Maloney Highlights!



## Maloney

- G9 has seen exponential growth in on track rates and consistently surpassed network wide pass and promotion rates.
- Progress is being made to close gaps for subgroups and all subgroups have shown marked improvement
- Summer programming has expanded - Summer Bridge and College Prep Academy have provided further resources for students transitioning into 9th grade and for incoming seniors completing milestone steps towards applying to college
- All Maloney graduates have a well defined postsecondary plan and achieve milestone steps towards plan completion- example 100% of 2/4 year college students have submitted an application.





# A Look at Grade 9 On-Track Data Teams



[Team GOAT data meeting video](#)

# Next Steps in RISE/MPS Partnership

- Increased expansion by Meriden Public Schools
  - self-sufficiency
  - expand middle school work
  - continued use of data tools
  - apprenticeship and trade programs
  - development of Career Academy

@MeridenK12 and @ctrisenetwork begin collaboration and planning to implement our new MPS/RISE Middle School initiative. Excited to expand our successful strategies into our middle schools.

@JFlynnLMS @lyons\_barton  
@WMSLopezAP @showerdaWMS  
@SullivanKowalsk @BronkMPS  
@Lisy\_73

