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Taking Action to Hold on to Students

Communities and their neighborhood public schools can turn the tide. We can and must guarantee that every child graduates from high school ready for college and the world of work. Strategic action to address school holding power has two key elements:

Community-based action – that reclaims neighborhood public schools, strengthens schools through school-community partnerships and holds schools and stakeholders accountable for student success.

Statewide systems change – to strengthen school holding power so all schools ensure that all children succeed and graduate. Each strategy must be informed by quality data about student outcomes and the factors that make up effective schools.

Get informed

See IDRA's **latest attrition study** online at: <https://budurl.me/IDRAatrn17w>

Get the attrition rate for **your county** over the last seven years at: <https://budurl.me/IDRAlookTx>

Receive IDRA's **eNews free e-letter** to get up-to-date information to make a difference in your school and community. Sign up online at: <http://budurl.com/IDRAsubscribe>

Listen to IDRA's **Classnotes podcast** to hear strategies for student success: <https://budurl.me/Classnotes-iTunes> or <https://budurl.me/IDRApodcast>

Get connected

Create a **community-school action team** to examine the factors that must be addressed to strengthen your school's holding power – its ability to hold on to students through to graduation. Use IDRA's Quality Schools Action Framework™.

IDRA's book, **Courage to Connect: A Quality Schools Action Framework™** shows how communities and schools can work together to be successful with all of their students. The book's web page (<http://www.idra.org/couragetocconnect>) has an excerpt, related podcasts, images of the framework and other resources.

Get results

Use IDRA's one-page **School Holding Power Checklist** that has a set of criteria for assessing and selecting effective dropout prevention strategies and for making sure your school is a quality school.

See [Page 41](#).

See what happens when a school district raises expectations for students instead of lowering them. **College Bound and Determined**, shows how the Pharr-San Juan Alamo school district in south Texas transformed itself from low achievement and low expectations to planning for all students to graduate from high school and college. **College Bound & Determined** is available from IDRA for \$15 and is free online at: <http://budurl.com/IDRACbdw>

