DOPR Survey Results Summary

What does it mean to operate as an authentic dropout recovery community school under the reorganized Department of Education and Workforce?

- **Student-Centric Approach:** Prioritize individual student needs beyond academics, addressing life challenges common among dropout recovery populations.
- **Flexible Learning Paths:** Offer alternative assessments and credit recovery options, allowing students to progress at their own pace.
- **Integrated Support Services:** Provide comprehensive support services such as childcare, healthcare access, mental health counseling, and career coaching alongside academic coursework.
- **Accountability with Flexibility:** Maintain accountability for student progress and graduation rates while allowing for operational flexibility to meet diverse student needs.
- **Partnership with DEW:** Collaborate closely with the Department of Education and Workforce, aligning policies and procedures to state guidance and accessing support resources.
- **Focus on Workforce Readiness:** Prepare students not only for graduation but also for successful careers through vocational training and career development initiatives.
- **Meeting Students Where They Are:** Tailor education and services to individual students, recognizing their varying levels of academic readiness and socio-economic challenges.
- **Empowering Students:** Provide opportunities for students to overcome obstacles to attendance, offering pathways to career preparation, industry credentials, and employment.
- **Continuous Improvement and Reflection:** Engage in ongoing evaluation and professional development to enhance the effectiveness of dropout recovery programs and ensure positive outcomes for students.
- **Maintaining High Standards:** Uphold rigorous standards for student achievement while acknowledging the need for a different approach to education delivery in dropout recovery settings.

What does a high-quality dropout recovery community school look like?

- **Tailored Education:** High-quality dropout recovery schools offer personalized education to meet the diverse needs of each student, including flexible scheduling and individualized graduation plans.
- **Mission Alignment:** The school's mission statement reflects its commitment to serving its unique student population, emphasizing support and engagement.
- **Student-Centered Approach:** Students are the priority, with decisions and programs designed to help them earn credits and graduate. Caring adults provide support, encouragement, and guidance.
- **Comprehensive Support:** Schools offer wraparound services addressing academic, social-emotional, and career readiness needs. This includes counseling, mentorship, and access to resources beyond academics.
- **Community Engagement:** High-quality schools engage families and the community, building partnerships and providing opportunities for students to succeed beyond graduation.

- **Flexible Learning Environment:** Schools offer flexible scheduling and credit recovery options to accommodate students' diverse circumstances, such as work or family commitments.
- **Data-Driven Approach:** Data is used to track student progress, inform instruction, and personalize support. Student success plans are developed collaboratively to outline steps for graduation.
- **College and Career Readiness:** Emphasis is placed on preparing students for post-secondary success through career counseling, job training, and exploration of future options.
- **Strong Leadership and Collaboration:** Dedicated leadership, ongoing professional development, and a collaborative team approach ensure consistency and effectiveness in dropout prevention efforts.
- **Holistic Support:** Schools prioritize the holistic development of students, addressing academic, social, and emotional needs to create a caring and stress-free learning environment conducive to success.

What metrics should be used to measure quality and outcomes?

To streamline the metrics for measuring quality and outcomes in dropout recovery community schools, we can focus on key indicators:

1. **Graduation Rates:** Tracking the percentage of students who successfully complete their high school education and earn a diploma within a reasonable timeframe.
2. **Credits Earned:** Monitoring the number of credits students accumulate towards graduation requirements, which demonstrates progress and academic achievement.
3. **Post-Graduation Pathways:** Assessing where students go after graduation, including enrollment in further education, job placement, military enlistment, or trade apprenticeships.
4. **Student Engagement and Attendance:** Examining attendance rates and student engagement as indicators of a positive school environment and effective support systems.
5. **Career Readiness:** Measuring students' readiness for the workforce through industry certifications, internships, or job placements, particularly relevant for career-focused programs.

By focusing on these metrics, dropout recovery community schools can assess their effectiveness in preparing students for post-secondary pathways and addressing their unique needs, while also considering the challenges and realities of serving at-risk populations.

What does success look like for a student in a dropout recovery community school? How is success measured?

- **Academic Achievement:** Success is marked by closing the credit deficiency gap, achieving graduation, and being college and career ready.
- **Data Measurement:** Success is measured through data gathered, including graduation rates and post-graduation outcomes.
- **Graduation Rates:** A key indicator of success is 100% graduation at the end of the school year.
- **Transition Plan:** Success includes having a transition plan for work, college, tech, or the military after graduation.

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- **Credit Recovery:** Success involves regular credit attainment and meeting graduation rate goals annually.
- **Impact Measurement:** Success is also gauged by the number of lives impacted and feedback from students and parents.
- **Individualized Success:** Success varies for each student but may include academic gains, credit recovery, and post-graduation plans.
- **Employability Skills:** Success includes graduating with employability skills and social interaction abilities.
- **Personal Growth:** Success encompasses personal development, such as emotional resilience and coping skills.

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