

A Follow-up Report to *Don't Call Them Dropouts*

DON'T QUIT ON ME

National & Community Partner Social Media Guide

With the release of *Don't Quit on Me: What Young People Who Left School Say About the Power of Relationships*, we hope to change the conversation about – and the lives of – the nearly 500,000 young people who will leave high school this year without graduating. This report shows how relationships can make all the difference and how all of us can help.

You can find the report on www.gradnation.org/dontquit as of September 16, 2015. Please join the conversation by using the hashtag #NotDropouts.

**Center for
Promise**
AMERICA'S PROMISE ALLIANCE®

Follow the Center for Promise and America's Promise on Twitter at @Center4Promise & @AmericasPromise and on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/americaspromise>.

SAMPLE TWEETS

**Please include periods before the Twitter handle if it is at the beginning of the tweet.*

NEW REPORT: Download Don't Quit on Me & learn what #youth say about the power of relationships.
#NotDropouts <http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

Relationships matter to young people. Learn more in the @Center4Promise report, Don't Quit on Me
#NotDropouts <http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

.@Center4Promise's new report Don't Quit on Me highlights how relationships can close graduation gaps.
#NotDropouts <http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

Social supports from multiple sources buffer the effects of adverse life experiences for most youth.
#NotDropouts <http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

With supportive relationships, #youth can draw on their own strengths & focus on academic success.
#NotDropouts <http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

TWEETS WITH STATISTICS

Nearly 500K #youth leave HS each yr before earning a diploma. Learn how to close the graduation gap!
#NotDropouts <http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

#Youth who left HS w/o graduating report 2x as many adverse life experiences as those who graduated.
#NotDropouts <http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

Youth who left school w/o graduating were 2x as likely to reach out to no one. #NotDropouts
<http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

Youth who left school w/o graduating were 1/2 as likely to reach out to a teacher. #NotDropouts
<http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

When youth have support from adults in school it reduces the likelihood of leaving school by 25%.
#NotDropouts <http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

When youth have support from peers it reduces the likelihood of leaving school by 24%. #NotDropouts
<http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

Over 50% of those who left HS w/o graduating experienced 5+ adverse experiences btw ages 14-18.
#NotDropouts <http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

TWEETS FOR GRAPHICS

Download the social media shareable graphics [here](#).

You don't need to be everyone to be someone for a young person. #NotDropouts <http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

Young people need someone they trust. #NotDropouts <http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

What can individuals do to help #youth graduate from HS on time? #NotDropouts <http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

What can educators do to help #youth graduate from HS on time? #NotDropouts <http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

What can communities do to help #youth graduate from HS on time? #NotDropouts <http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

What can policymakers do to help #youth graduate from HS on time? #NotDropouts
<http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

Youth are facing too many hurdles with too little help. How can we provide the support they need?
#NotDropouts <http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

#Youth growing up in challenging circumstances need multiples sources of support. #NotDropouts
<http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

SAMPLE FACEBOOK AND LINKEDIN POSTS

Young people who left high school told us that they need resources, respect, an “Anchor” and a “Web of Support.” Learn more about the findings from *Don't Quit on Me* and what you can do to help more young people graduate from high school. #NotDropouts <http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

Young people are facing too many hurdles with too little help. How can we provide the support they need to succeed? Learn more in the latest Center for Promise report, *Don't Quit on Me*. #NotDropouts
<http://bit.ly/DontQuitOnMe>

SAMPLE E-NEWSLETTER BLURB

Don't Quit on Me

A new study from America's Promise Alliance researchers offers new insights — from the perspectives of young people themselves — into how support from adults and peers can help to close the remaining gap between those who graduate from high school on time and those who don't. *Don't Quit on Me: What Young People Who Left School Say About the Power of Relationships* answers questions about what kinds and sources of support matter in young people's decisions to stay in, leave and return to school. Find out more at GradNation.org/DontQuit.

SAMPLE WEB NEWS COPY

Supportive Relationships Matter in Young People's Decisions to Stay in, Leave and Return to School

A new report, released by America's Promise Alliance, *Don't Quit on Me: What Young People Who Left School Say About the Power of Relationships*, offers new insights – from the perspectives of young people themselves – into how support from adults and peers can help close the remaining gap between those who graduate from high school on time and those who don't.

Researchers reached four conclusions:

- **Too many young people are facing too many hurdles with too little help.** Young people who left school without graduating experienced **twice** as many adverse life experiences as youth who graduated on time. More than half of those who left school without graduating experienced **five or more** adverse life experiences between the ages of 14 and 18. Too many young people who leave school without graduating are experiencing a kind of **relationship poverty**. They don't have enough people in their lives who can provide the type of support they need.
- **Relationships increase likely graduation and enable young people to redirect internal strengths.** Overall support from adults in school reduces the likelihood of young people leaving school by **25 percent**. Instrumental support from adults outside of school reduces the likelihood of young people leaving school by **17 percent**. With supportive relationships in their lives, young people are able to draw on **their own strengths** and focus on academic success.
- **Support buffers adversity – up to a point.** Even a moderate amount of support boosts likely graduation by **at least 20 percentage points** for young people experiencing moderate risk. Young people reporting five or more adverse life experiences hit an **adversity cliff**, and social support alone does little to help. Uninterrupted graduation stays well below 50 percent, even with high support from multiple sources. Relationships still matter, but they must include efforts to resolve trauma, health problems, and social and economic barriers.
- **Caring adults don't need to be heroes – young people need an anchor and a web of support.** Young people growing up in challenging circumstances need multiples sources of support at varying intensities. **An anchor** provides stability and trust. Once that person is in place, the anchor can illuminate a **web of supportive** relationships that can provide information and resources. Some young people may be standing in a room that contains all the support they need, but they need someone else to **turn on the lights** so they can see what's there and reach for it.

The report also includes recommendations for how individuals, schools and communities can help more students stay on track toward graduation. Some of those recommendations include: become a mentor, tutor or coach; develop systems for intervening at or before the point of departure that makes it harder for young people to leave school in the first place and easier to return; eradicate zero-tolerance discipline policies in schools; and engage health care professionals as allies in boosting graduation rates.

America's Promise Alliance's research institute, the [Center for Promise](#) at Boston University's School of Education, conducted the study.

Don't Quit on Me, funded by Target, is part of the [GradNation campaign](#) to reach the national goal of a 90 percent on time graduation rate by 2020 and increase postsecondary enrollment and completion.

Full report and graphics. To read the full report and download sharable graphics visit:

<http://www.gradnation.org/dontquit>.

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QUESTIONS?

For additional graphics and content, please contact Sarah Boison at sarahb@americaspromise.org.

