



EDUCATION GROUP

Interactive Workshops. Engaged Communities.  
Keeping teens "into" school!



"You gave us an education about why we need education." –Evan, middle school student, Washington

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**Who We Serve**

Middle and High School teens in  
their classrooms and beyond!

# CHOICES

## Addressing the High School Dropout Epidemic

**The Problem:** Every school day 7,000 teens become high school dropouts. Each time a teen drops out, he or she faces a lifetime of challenges and uncertainty, and also forfeits an estimated \$260,000 in lifetime earnings compared to high school graduates. But we as a nation also face a lifetime of healthcare, welfare and crime costs for each dropout, as well as lost tax revenues resulting from their lower earnings, which together are estimated at \$290,000 per teen. With 7,000 kids dropping out each school day, this means we are incurring future losses of \$2 billion every school day that we allow this to continue!

**The Workshop:** Into this appalling epidemic steps CHOICES, an interactive decision-making workshop that focuses on keeping teens in school, motivating them toward their education and future, and introducing them to practical life skills to help them succeed. In two fast-paced 45-minute sessions, business volunteers take students through real-world exercises on self-discipline, decision making, time management and goal setting. We were started in 1985 by a Seattle dad that broke through to his troubled teenage son, and have since served over 6 million teens across the nation. We currently support more than 120 program sites in 30 states and engage over 700 business and community volunteers to serve 70,000 teens per year – that’s more than 375 teens every school day, and we do it at a cost of less than \$5 per teen.

**The Results:** Students give CHOICES an “approval rating” of 88%, and teachers give it 97%. In a 2007 study investigating changes in student engagement in school, students indicated a 9% increase in appropriate engagement, a 9% decrease in inappropriate engagement and a 9% decrease in non-engagement coincident with CHOICES. Engagement in school has been shown to be a reliable indicator of the probability of on-time high school completion. In a recent study of at-risk students, those who participated in CHOICES increased their school engagement 47% more than those who did not, as reported by their teachers. This indicates a strong correlation between participation in CHOICES and positive school engagement.

**The Call:** Turn a teen around today with your time, money and/or other resources. Visit [www.choices.org](http://www.choices.org) or call 206-CHOICES (206-246-4237). Five dollars can save a teen, and help build a stronger future for us all.