

# SCHOOL DROPOUT: fostering a better understanding for better retention



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YOUNG PEOPLE DROP OUT OF SCHOOL AS A RESULT OF A SERIES OF EXPERIENCES AND EVENTS.

So there are several factors?

That's right, many factors can lead to school dropout; some are the result of experiences at school (academic results, support, relationships with staff, etc.), others are due to experiences outside of school (living environment, family context, etc.).

②  
CERTAIN FACTORS HAVE A DIFFERENT EFFECT DEPENDING ON GENDER.

Oh yeah?

Depending on a young person's gender identity, factors such as commitment to school, parental expectations and obligations, and the way in which failures are experienced can have a different impact.

③  
JOB PROSPECTS ARE NOT A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IN SCHOOL DROPOUT.

Concretely, what does this mean?

Statistical analysis shows that there is a direct and inverse relationship between job rates and graduation and qualification rates, that is, when there are a lot of jobs available, the proportion of young people who obtain their first diploma or qualification is lower. While young people do not tend to take the economic situation into account before they drop out, it nevertheless has a real impact on them. In fact, some young people need to work to meet their needs or to help meeting their family's needs, which can hamper or bring about an end to their studies.

Let's take a look at the following pages. I present two examples of educational paths based on the realities I observed during my studies. There are others, of course, but these examples illustrate how situations can eventually lead to school dropout.

The goal is to watch for early warning signs. Young people who are having difficulty need a whole community (teachers, intervention workers, parents, citizens, employers, elected officials) to support them in obtaining their diploma or qualification.



<sup>1</sup>BOUCHARD, M.-C. (2020). *Les relations entre le décrochage et le contexte socio-économique local au Québec: étude de cas dans la région de Lanaudière*, master's thesis in sociology. Université du Québec à Montréal.



Naomi, 16 years old



Difficulties at school, new family responsibilities, forced abandonment of a cherished extracurricular activity, loss of school support, absence of parental support – these are all factors that interact and can lead to school disengagement and, ultimately, school dropout.





Family crises that lead to a change in living environment, bullying, peer pressure and drug use—these are all factors that interact and can lead to school disengagement and, ultimately, school dropout.





And if you'd like to delve deeper... a few resources to have on hand

1

The site Une place pour toi (in French) drawn from the Guide de prévention du décrochage scolaire (CTREQ, 2007), which offers suggestions of ways to stay in school and persevere, as well as testimonials from young people.

2

A telephone helpline for parents (Ligne Parents) and a helpline youth (Tel-Jeunes) in need, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

3

The Toolbox (in French) from CREVALE, which provides a range of tools and information on school perseverance and academic success.

4

The 211 site, Lanaudière's directory of community, public and parapublic organizations and services that respond to various needs (food, housing, homelessness, health, employment, justice, rights advocacy, etc.).

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