SCHOOL DROPOUT:

fostering a better understanding for better retention







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



CERTAIN FACTORS HAVE A DIFFERENT EFFECT DEPENDING ON GENDER.



JOB PROSPECTS ARE NOT A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IN SCHOOL DROPOUT.

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.).

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.

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.



¹BOUCHARD, 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.





With main financial support from





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.

Justin, 14 years old

















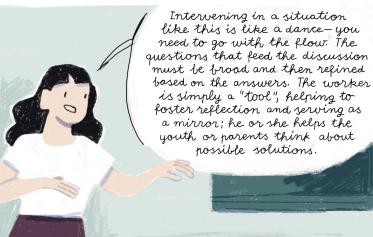






Family crises that lead to a change in living environment, bullying, peer pressure and drug use—these are all factors that interact and can lead to school disengagement and, ultimately, school dropout.





Here are a few suggestions of how to pave the way for this discussion and reflection...

WITH YOUNG

PEOPLE

What's your relationship with school? What aspects of your life are going well, and which ones are causing you difficulty or frustration?

If your situation doesn't change, what's the worst thing that could happen to you? How do you feel about that? What changes would you like to make to your situation? In what order? What steps can be taken to make those changes?

Can you find
different endings for
Naomi and Justin in
the comic strips? What
steps would need to
be taken for these
alternate endings?

WITH THE PARENTS



As a parent, what could you do (that's within your power) to encourage your child to persevere at school? Think about the living environment you can offer your child (an appropriate place to study, necessary material, etc.), your availability to support their studies, your attitude and comments about their school and education in general. (Do you know their school? Do you talk to their teachers? What importance do you place on education?)

What's your communication like with your child? Does your child talk to you about what goes on at school? What hinders your communication? What eases your communication, or how can you establish a dialogue to support your child in what they are experiencing? What would be your role as a parent who is being confided in?

What can you do to get support or tools to deal with this difficult situation?



The site <u>Une place pour</u>
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.

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



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



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



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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