



USER GUIDE

High School Recommitment

Purpose:

Whether you've had a high school/College Bound/college access component of your program for years or it is brand new, it is highly recommended that you have some version of a recommitment process. Since the commitment (hours, days, frequency, deliverables, and summer component) in high school differs significantly at some affiliates from the middle school program, it is important that students, families, and staff are all on the same page in terms of what is required and what students and families can expect from Breakthrough. This is not meant to lock you into static service, but ensure that students proactively consider the commitment of being a Breakthrough high school student.

Considerations:

This process can be adapted depending on whether you have capacity to serve all students that were in the Breakthrough middle school program or plan to serve a smaller subset of students. The important elements are that students and families understand what is expected of them and what they can expect from Breakthrough. Additionally, if you intend on having consequences or incentives for compliance, those should be clearly defined at the onset.

Options:

The first decision point is deciding on when to have students and families recommit to Breakthrough. Most sites do a recommitment process at the end of 8th grade, during the summer prior to 9th, or at the very beginning of 9th grade. It is best to do it whenever you have the largest captive audience.

Individual meetings - This method is time intensive but very effective at ensuring that expectations are clear. It also helps students and families build a relationship with the high school staff. This is a benefit if you have to have harder or more challenging conversations with them in the future (e.g., student behavior concerns, financial aid,

college choice). You can also involve other Breakthrough staff beyond just the high school team in facilitating individual meetings, but you will lose the relationship-building element. This style allows staff to answer individual questions, especially those that are personal in nature.

Group discussion with individual follow up - A large group discussion of the commitment and services can be followed up with individual meetings. This is more efficient and still maintains the relationship building benefits of the prior option.

Large group recommitment - A large group discussion of the commitment and services can be followed up with each student and family signing the recommitment document and turning it in to staff. This is the most efficient but is more impersonal, and may require more investment from staff in reminding students to submit recommitment documents.

Technology based recommitment - There are ways to share the commitment via technology and have students and families virtually sign the documents, or have them print and mail them in. This will be reliant on access to technology and loses the personal element. There are also more ways for details to get lost in translation, or have individual concerns missed.

Parent/Guardian Involvement:

All meetings and contracts should include students and families. You must make families your partner in accountability. It will also alert families that they have the help that they need to support their student.

Resources:

General Breakthrough Recommitment Contract

High School Commitment PowerPoint

Proving Behaviors:

Students and families know the expectations of the Breakthrough high school program and what they can expect from the program. Any incentives or consequences are understood and internalized.