

**Pathways to Education:
An Integrated Approach to Helping At-Risk High School Students**

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Abstract: Pathways to Education is a comprehensive youth support program developed to improve academic outcomes among those entering high school from very poor social-economic backgrounds. The program includes proactive case workers assigned to each student, free weekly tutoring, group activities, career counseling, and college transition assistance, combined with immediate and long-term incentives to reinforce a minimum degree of mandatory participation. The program began in 2001 for entering Grade 9 students living in Regent Park, a large public housing project in downtown Toronto. Even though parents and students were required to commit in writing to conditions and high expectations of the program, participation rates quickly rose to more than 85 percent. Comparing students from other nearby housing projects before and after the introduction of the program, high school graduation and post secondary enrollment rates rose dramatically for Pathways eligible students, by more than 40 percent.

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