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ANNOUNCEMENT

New Report Promotes State Role in Supporting At-Risk and Struggling Students

June 29th, 2007 - The National High School Alliance (Alliance) announces the launch of a new report, *Academic Interventions to Help Students Meet Rigorous Standards: State Policy Options*. The report is intended to inform the design of state policies and programs to help at risk students succeed as they face challenging, college preparatory curricula and increased graduation requirements. It provides an analysis of interventions to support struggling students in achieving high standards, synthesizes current research findings, and presents an array of strategies specific to state policymakers. The report serves as a tool for initiating dialogue about effective policies and programs among leaders at all levels. .

Based on a review of current literature from national research and policy organizations, the Alliance identified five categories of academic interventions that characterize the vast array of programs and policies directed toward struggling students. For each category, the report suggests ways in which states policymakers can influence these programs at the district and school levels. The categories of interventions include the following:

- I. Accelerated Learning Options;
- II. Extended Learning Time Programs;
- III. Personalized Learning Environments;
- IV. Dropout Prevention and Recovery Programs; and
- V. Incorporate Literacy Instruction into the Curriculum.

The report also provides descriptions of two states—Indiana and Virginia—where interventions for at-risk students are being provided in the context of a state-wide high school reform agenda. The strategies targeted toward struggling and at-risk students must be part of a comprehensive plan to ensure that all students are ready for post-secondary education, careers, and active civic participation.

To access *Academic Interventions to Help Students Meeting Rigorous Standards* and other Alliance publications, visit www.hsalliance.org.

About the National High School Alliance

The National High School Alliance, established in 2002, is a partnership of over fifty national organizations whose leaders share a vision for a nationwide commitment to fostering high achievement, closing the achievement gap, and promoting civic and personal growth among all youth in our high schools and communities. These partner organizations have committed to work together to achieve this vision by individually and collectively informing policy, practice, research, and promoting public engagement and awareness. The Alliance is housed at the Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, DC.