



33 Barriers to Graduation by JAG

In over 30 years of intensive research and program implementation to help ensure all of America's students graduate career ready, the JAG System has identified 33 Barriers to Graduation that inhibit student achievement. When five or more of these barriers are present in the lives of students, the likelihood of graduation significantly decreases. And when a student does not graduate, the perpetuation of these barriers into the next generation rises dramatically.

ACADEMIC BARRIERS

- A.1. One or more modal grades behind peers.
- A.2. Has repeated a grade in high school.
- A.3. Low academic performance (a grade point of C or below or basic academic skills in the bottom quartile of the class).
- A.4. Basic skills deficient (reading and math in particular).
- A.5. Limited English proficiency.
- A.6. Failed state proficiency exam.
- A.7. Past record of excessive absences as verified by school officials.
- A.8. Has been suspended, expelled, or put on probation during high school.
- A.9. Has dropped out of school previously.

PERSONAL BARRIERS

- P.1. Special education certified (verified by school district or agency).
- P.2. Lacks motivation or maturity to pursue education or career goals.
- P.3. Emotional disorder that impairs education or career goals.
- P.4. Has a disability (documented disabilities only).
- P.5. Health problems that impair education or career goals.

ENVIRONMENTAL BARRIERS

- E.1. Family environment is not conducive to education or career goals.
- E.2. Mother did not graduate from high school.
- E.3. Father did not graduate from high school.
- E.4. Mother does not work.
- E.5. Father does not work.
- E.6. Is pregnant (when admitted to the program).
- E.7. Has dependent child or children in the home.
- E.8. Is parenting.
- E.9. Has documented alcohol and/or substance abuse.
- E.10. Convicted of a criminal offense other than a traffic violation.
- E.11. Has a record of violent behavior.
- E.12. Is homeless.
- E.13. Is a runaway.
- E.14. Requires child care during work or school.
- E.15. Needs transportation to and from work or school.
- E.16. Is in foster care.
- E.17. Child of incarcerated parent.
- E.18. Child of a migrant worker.

INCOME AND WORK-RELATED BARRIERS

- W.1. Is an economically disadvantaged student as defined by public assistance, AFDC, or free lunch.
- W.2. Is a member of a race/ethnic group with a low family income.
- W.3. Has inadequate or no work experience.
- W.4. Lacks marketable occupational skills that are in demand in the local labor market.

OTHER

- O.1. Other