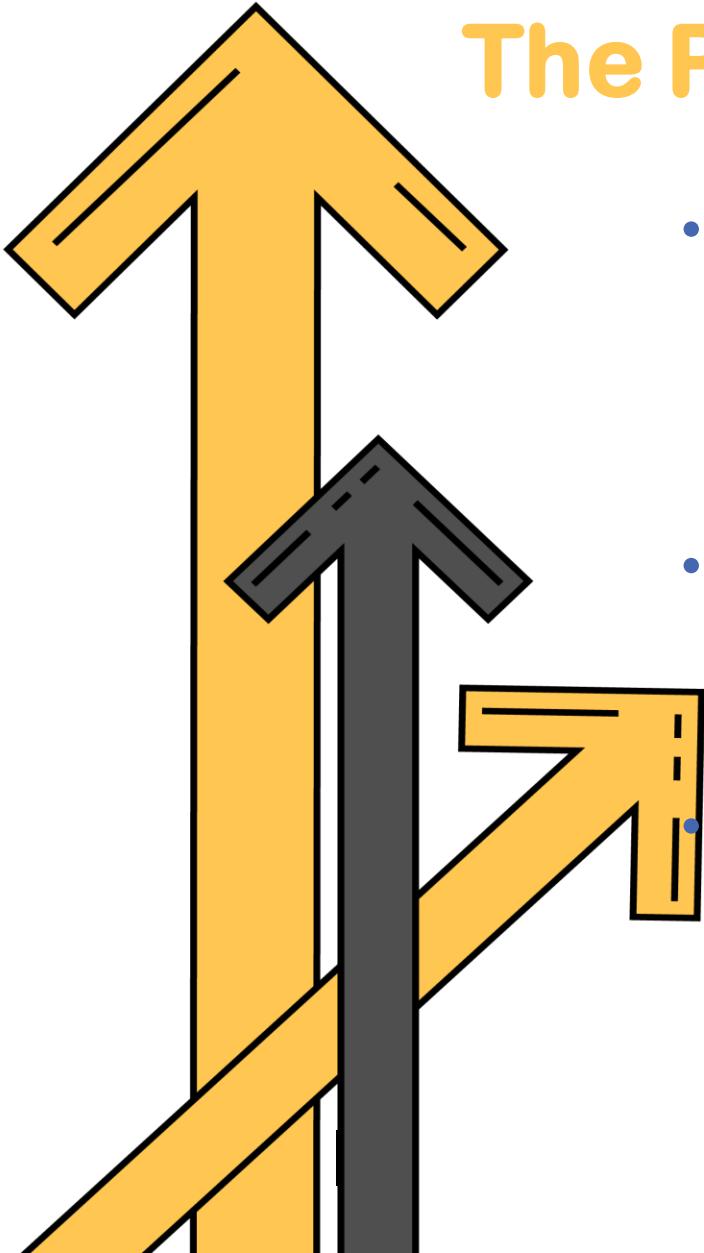


Peer Group Connection

Cameron Traylor, Peer Leader
Kathie Davidson, PGC Faculty Advisor
Northern High School, Durham Public Schools

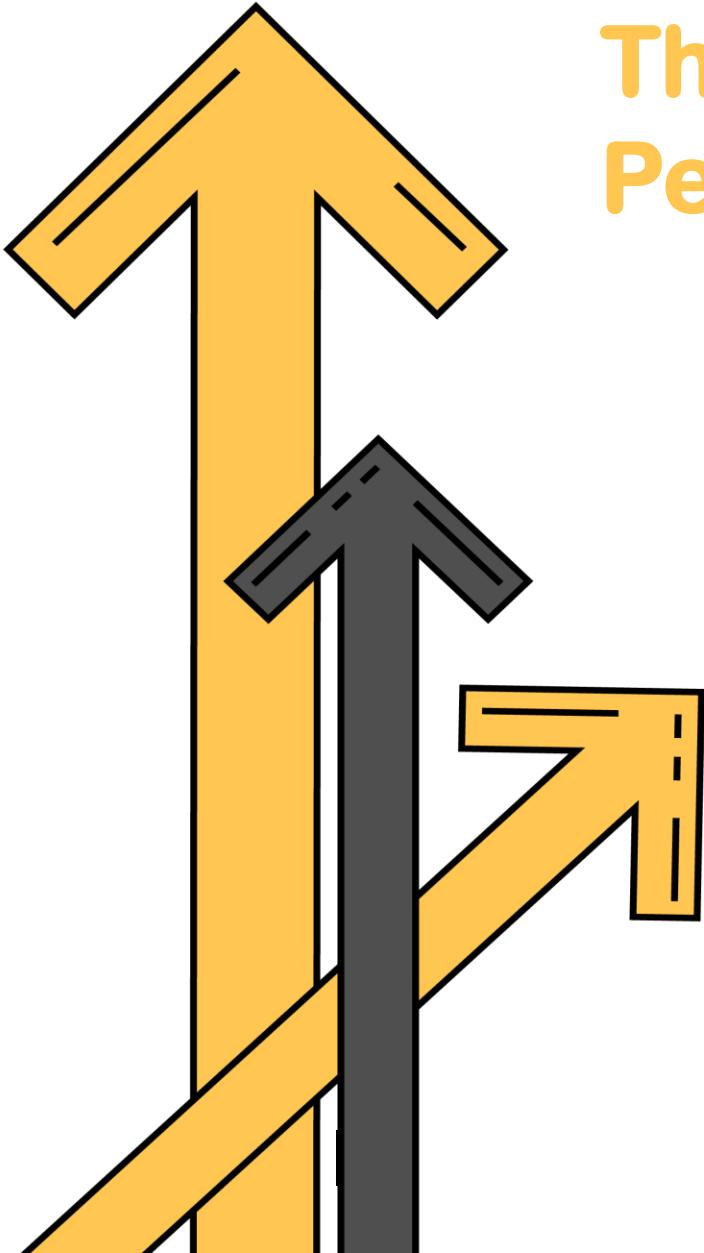
Joyce C. Loveless
NC Executive Director
Center for Supportive Schools

The Problem: Transition to High School



- Research demonstrates that the stress often accompanying the transition from middle school to high school is associated with **lowered achievement and school attendance** (Akos & Galassi, 2004)
- By the time they reach high school, as many as 40 to 60 percent of all students – urban, suburban and rural – are “**chronically disengaged**” from school (Blum, 2005)

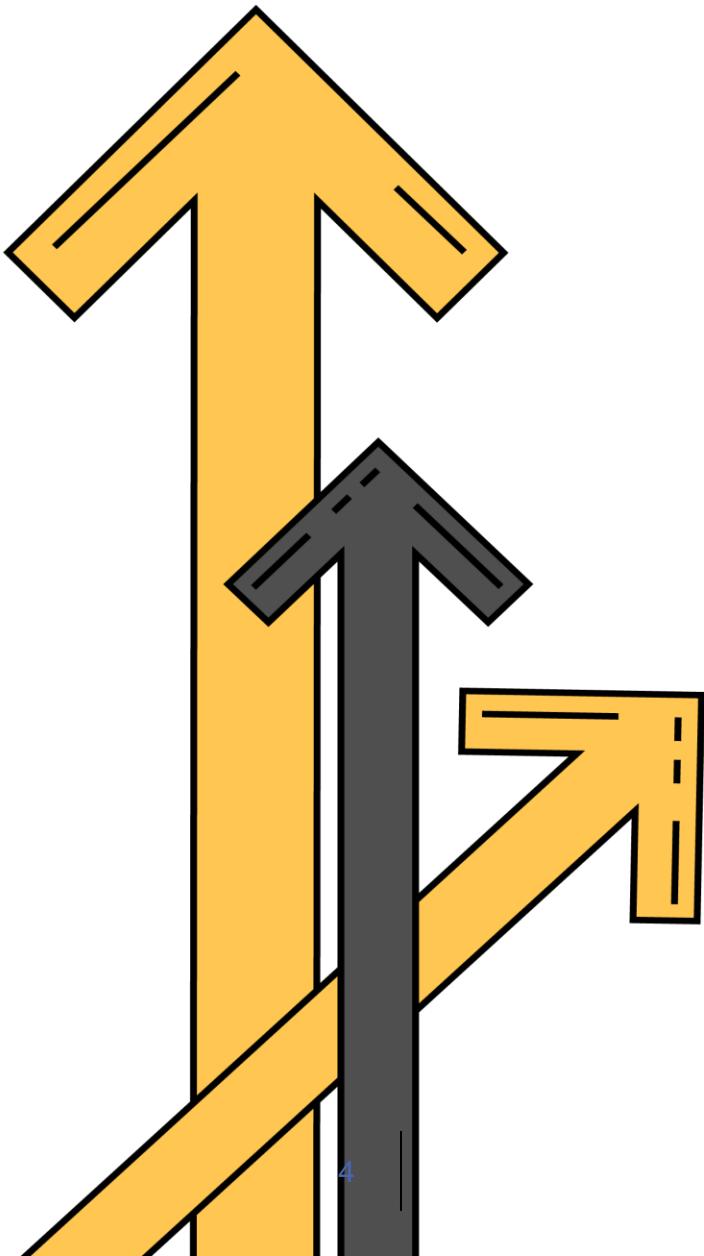
Students are most vulnerable for dropping out during and immediately following their first year of high school (Cohen & Smerdon, 2009)



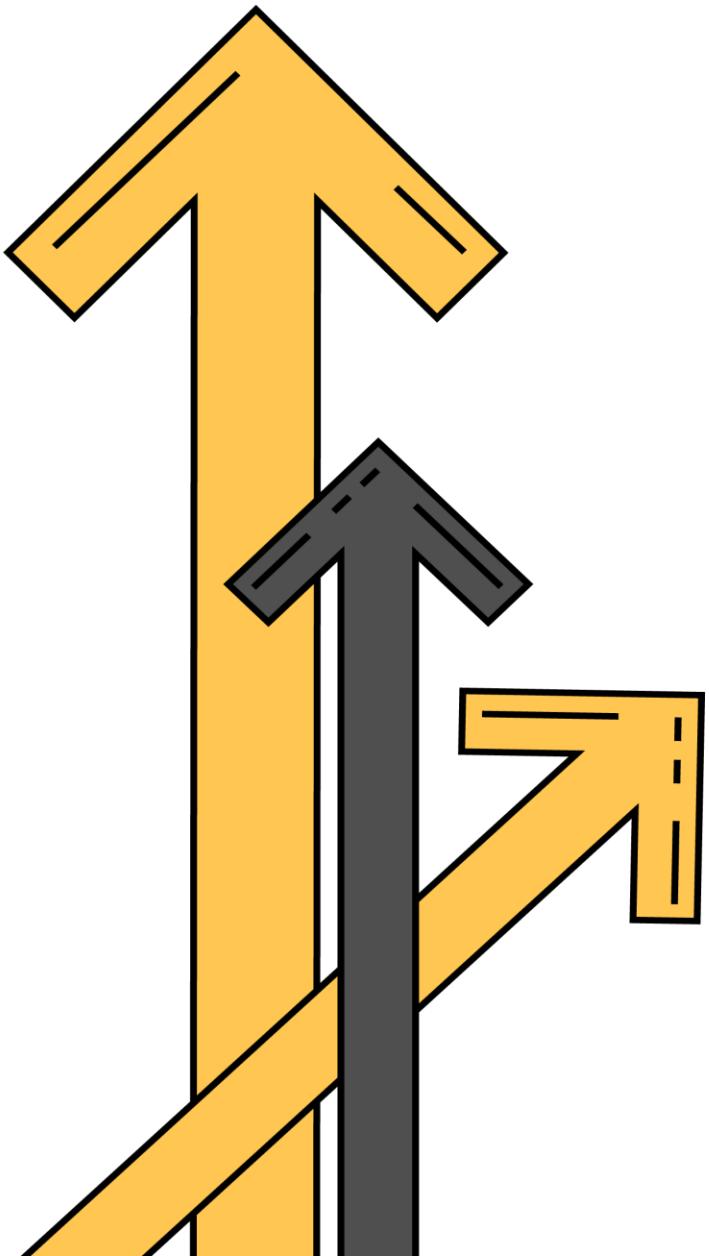
The Opportunity: Peer Group Connection

- By leveraging the power of **school-based, group mentoring** by older peers and focusing intensively on the **transition** from middle to high school...
- We can transform this period of **heightened vulnerability** into one of **significant opportunity** to prevent the potentially devastating personal and societal consequences of high school disengagement and dropout.

What is Peer Group Connection-High School (PGC-HS)?



- Evidence-based peer-to-peer group mentoring model developed by the Center for Supportive Schools (CSS)
- 11th and/or 12th graders support incoming 9th graders as they transition from middle to high school
- Enhances school connectedness for students through caring relationships with adults and one another
- Trains and mobilizes students to be lifelong leaders who make schools better for themselves, their peers, and younger students
- Helps students develop the leadership, academic, social, and emotional skills that are proven to result in school and life success



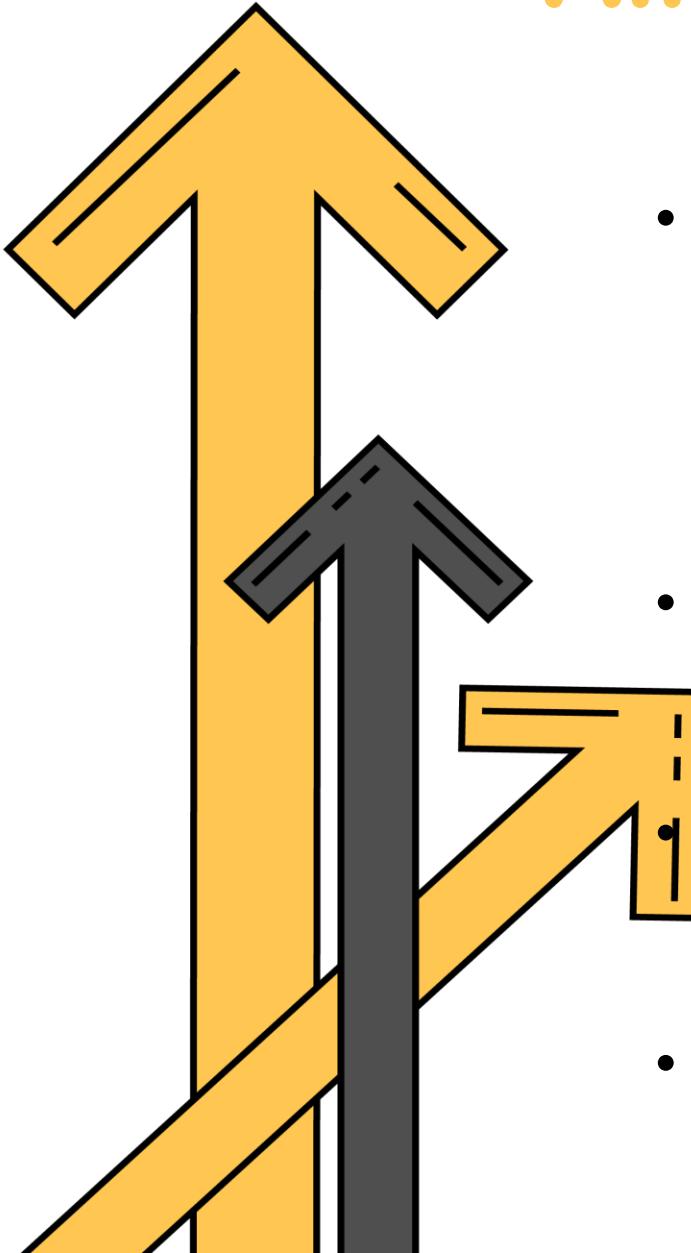
DAILY NEWS

All NC Schools safe, supportive,
engaging and inspiring

Schools leverage students'
leadership potential to
create vibrant learning
environments.



All NC Schools Safe, Supportive, Engaging and Inspiring



- Cross age, peer-to-peer mentoring is a component of every high school in NC, moving the needle on keeping students in school and reducing disparities in on-time graduation high school graduation rates
- Data collected by schools include indicators of student engagement and connectedness
- Disparities in equitable access to supportive conditions for learning and high expectations to learn are eliminated
- All students are actively engaged as members of the school community, with voice and choice