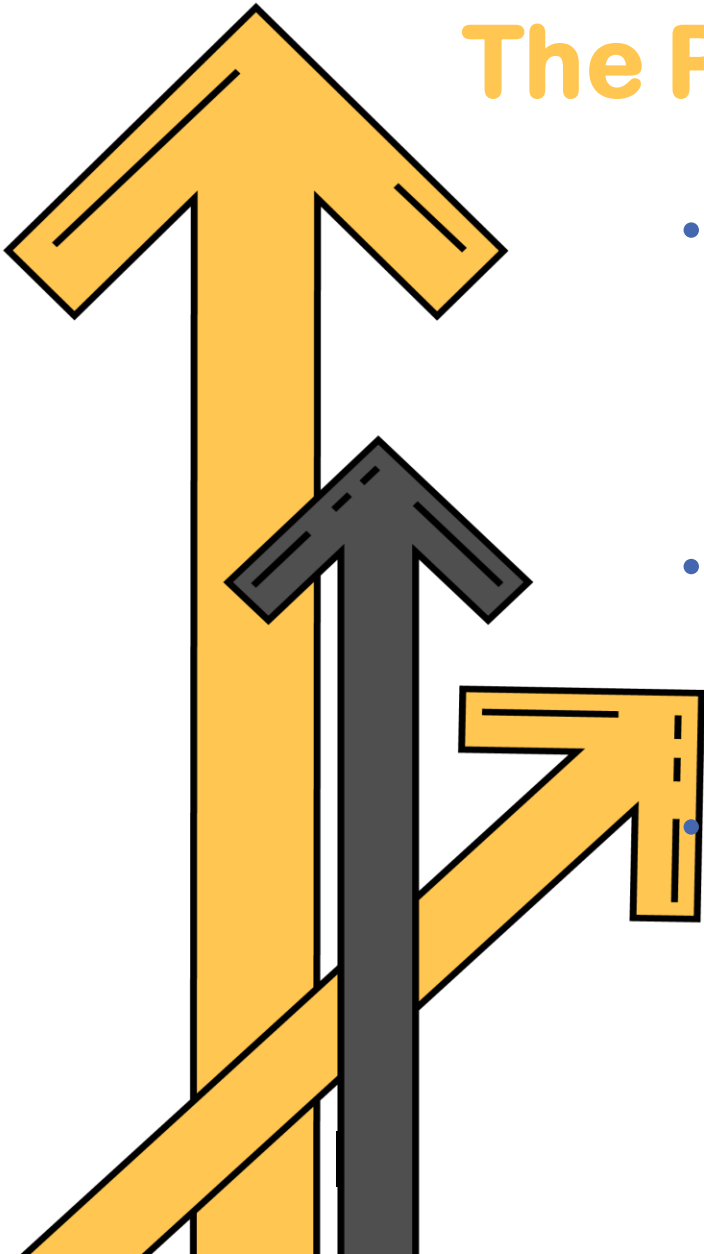


Peer Group Connection

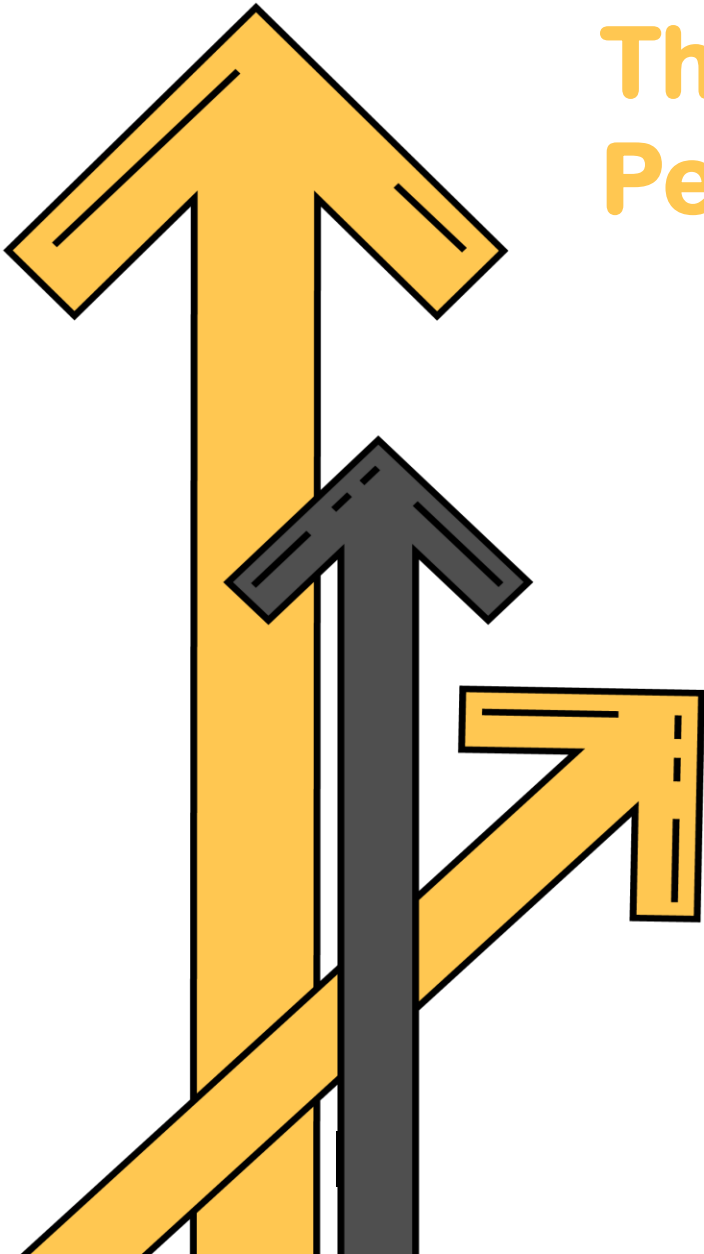
Cameron Traylor, Peer Leader
Kathie Davidson, PGC Faculty Advisor
Northern High School, Durham Public Schools

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The Problem: Transition to High School

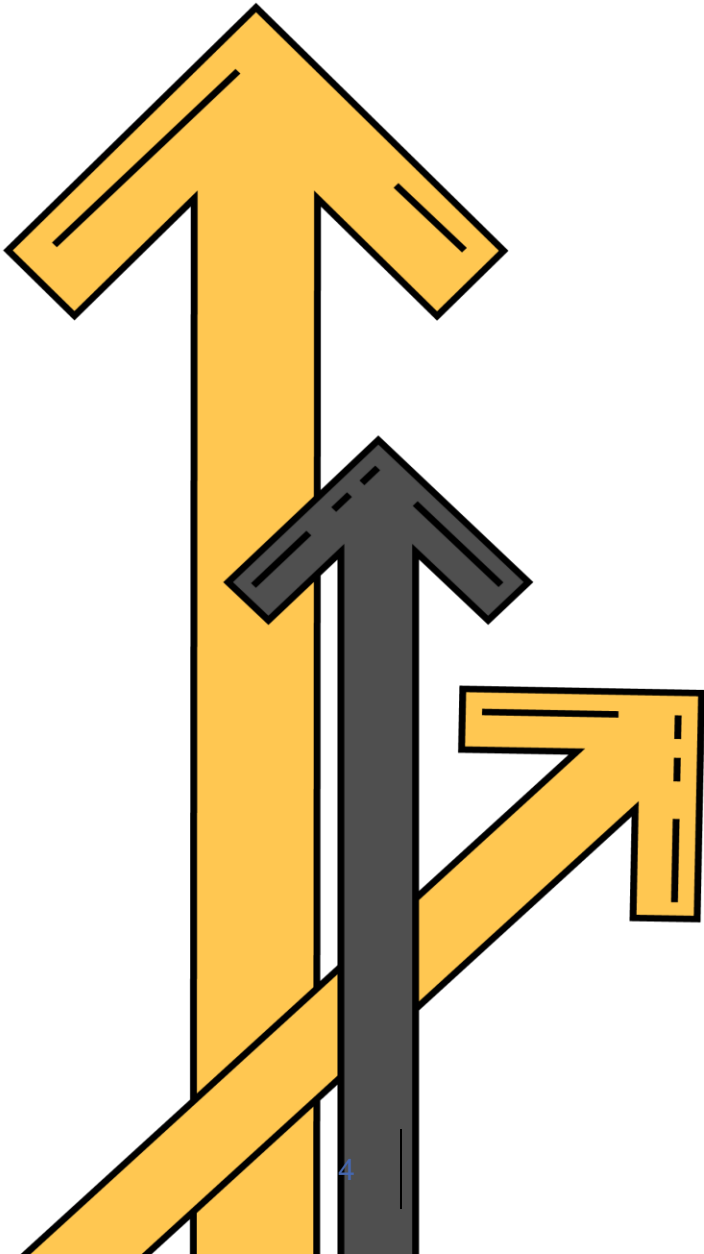
- 
- Research demonstrates that the stress often accompanying the transition from middle school to high school is associated with **lowered achievement and school attendance** (Akos & Galassi, 2004)
 - By the time they reach high school, as many as 40 to 60 percent of all students – urban, suburban and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

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- 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

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engaging and inspiring

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



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- 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