

Spencer Community Schools Student At-Risk Indicators

The indicators listed below will be used by building level teams to identify those students who are at-risk. At least one of the primary indicators needs to be present. As a rule-of-thumb, these students identified will exhibit two or more indicators (including both primary and secondary indicators):

Primary Indicators

- is detained in grade level one or more years and is older than his/her classmates
- is failing two or more classes
- is absent an average of one day a week or has a noticeable decline in attendance
- changes schools two or more times during a school year or three or more times over a three year period
- exhibits behavior problems, and/or has repetitious referrals for discipline, with suspension
- is involved with substance abuse, either by being a substance abuser, or by being part of a family in which substance-abuse is present
- is pregnant or already a teen parent – or is the child of a teen parent
- is a youth offender
- has physical and/or emotional health problems
- is neglected or abused
- is homeless
- has suicidal tendencies
- has parents with emotional or physical difficulties
- is a victim of peer harassment
- has parent who is incarcerated

Secondary Indicators

- has low achievement test scores on the ITBS or ITED'S. Low achievement is defined as being in the lower quartile of the district's students.
- is performing below grade level in reading at the primary or intermediate levels
- does not participate in school or community activities
- has few friends
- exhibits a lack of direction; no long term goals
- has a language/cultural barrier
- comes from a low-socio-economic background
- comes from a single parent household
- has parents or other family members who did not graduate from high school
- is subject to negative peer pressure
- displays poor organization, poor work habits or poor study habits
- has no specific plan for post-high school training
- dislikes school
- excessive outside school demands (i.e. job)