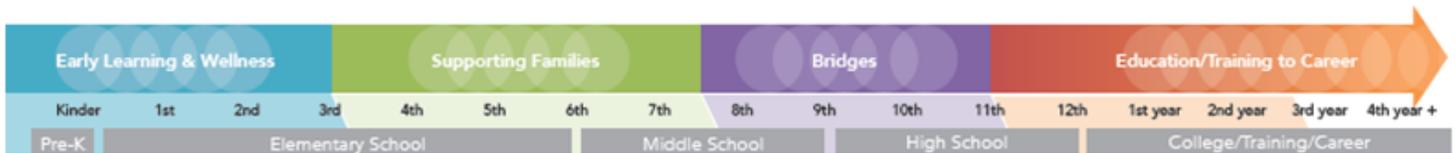




Better Together

Better Together is a regional, cross-sector partnership working collectively to improve children and youth success from before birth to career.



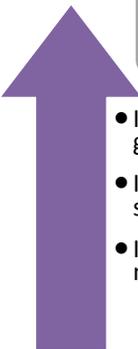
8+9 Project

8+9 is an emerging strategy from the Bridges Workgroup along the Better Together continuum. 8+9 consists of a growing number of existing and expanded programs and schools throughout Central Oregon working collectively around a shared vision & outcomes to ultimately increase graduation rates and ensure long-term student success. Together we are supporting students during the vulnerable transition from 8th to 9th grade by providing **free, fun, & future focused programs** in the summer before and after 8th grade with link to an adult mentor at the start of 9th grade.



Your Logo Here

Working together to...

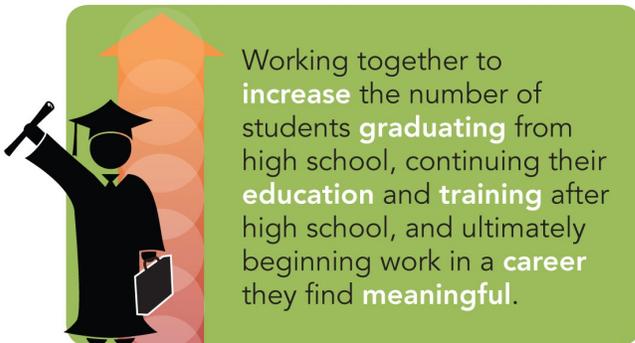


- Increase the number of 9th grade students on-track to graduate
- Increase the number of 8th & 9th graders attending school regularly
- Increase the number of 9th grade students linked to a mentor at the beginning of high school

Why 8th Grade Summers + 9th Grade Mentors?

The bridge between 8th & 9th grade is a vulnerable transition, as many students fall behind during that period and are not on track to graduate high school by the end of their 9th grade year. The transition to High School has become extremely important due to the high dropout rates and course failures. The student's academic standing during the 9th grade is the most predictive indicator of high school dropout. Students who finish ninth grade on track are four times more likely to graduate than students who fall behind in their first year of high school.

The ninth grade achievement gap between lower and higher income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities. This is known as the “summer slide.” Students without the opportunities to participate in summer programs remain stagnant or fall behind as opposed to peers who have access to summer learning opportunities.



Working together to **increase** the number of students **graduating** from high school, continuing their **education** and **training** after high school, and ultimately beginning work in a **career** they find **meaningful**.

In addition to the “summer slide” it is crucial during this vulnerable transition that 9th graders are linked with a safe and supportive adult mentor during this time. Research shows that when relationships with non-parental adults are experienced by youth as meaningful and supportive, they can serve as a catalyst for several intertwined developmental and interpersonal processes that in turn, help young people to both avoid problems and reach their full potential.

We invite you to join schools, higher education institutions, businesses, government agencies, community based organizations, non-profits and individual community members in this collective work. We are aligning our existing, emerging and new efforts around shared outcome measures to ensure that Central Oregon students thrive.

Find your role, help students excel— we're **Better Together**

We welcome you to join us!

We meet on the 3rd Friday of every month from 11-12:30
Ridgeview High School— Sky Box Room, Redmond, Oregon

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