

Results of PTC Elementary Algebra Focus Groups

Frequency - Barriers/Challenges	Knowledge	Action Strategies	Changes	Effective Support “What Works”
100% 1. Individual assistance to prevent “lines” telephone support	1. Be patient	1. Don’t wait until the last minute	1. Within budget add staff.	1. Helpful staff members
95% 1. Difficulty remembering algebra rules	1. Work hard Go to class	1. Do homework; current Use all resources	1. Workshops in study skills.	1. College Seminar
90% 1. Can’t use calculator 2. Family, children, etc. (Time to study)	1. Need to know basics 2. Time management skills	1. Review 2. Implement	1. Align with what High Schools are doing. Review basic math skills. 2. Teach time management.	1. Small class Good teacher Doesn’t talk above their head 2. College Seminar
80% 1. Trouble establishing priorities and goals	1. Set goals	1. Go to a counselor	1. Help students learn how to identify priorities / goals.	1. College Seminar
75% 1. Career / Advising (Academic) 2. Returning to school after a period of time 3. Expand Day Care (More financial assistance)	1. Know where its located Know who to talk to Need an appointment? 2. Difficult Be committed to goal (If not serious do not go) 3. Student needs plan / alternatives	1. Go! 2. Get info for entrance / financial aide (Compass) Be early, be responsible Use website Attend SOAR 3.	1. Advertise advising and career center. Have a school newspaper. 2. Better flow of information. 3. Provide more financial aid. Have day care facility on campus. Extend hours.	1. We have an advising center NOW! SOAR was effective 2. Flexible class schedule Locations online 3. Some day care provided Some financial aid provided

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50-75% 1. Don't have computers at home – required use of computers	1. Know you will have outside lab time	1.	1. Give computers to each student. Make students aware that they will have outside lab time. Advise.	1. Certain instructors set up computer lab time “in class” Go to lab and learn how to sign in, etc.
60-70% 1. Certain instructors don't teach	1. Know deans and chairs	1.	1. Allow instructor evaluation at any time.	1. Some are better than others
50% 1. Not easy to return to campus to use computer labs 2. Lack of support system 3. Lack of information on how to get things “done” 4. Attendance policies 5. No make-up work	1. Know you need a computer 2. Know to plan ahead Know to reach out for help (research) 3. Pay attention 4. Plan on being there Keep priorities 5. Know the policy on make-up work	1. 2. 3. Be responsible Do research 4. 5.	1. Give computers to each student. Make students aware they will have outside lab time. Advise. 2. Advertise day care. Mentorship program. 3. Checklist. 4. More flexibility. 5. Uniform Policies.	1. 2. Class schedule 3. Information is available 4. Talk to instructors 5. Some instructors are supportive
40-50% 1. Sick – can't make up work (Not this class)	1. Know to read the syllabus and follow it	1. Communicate with instructor	1. Be more flexible. Look at policies (unexcused absences).	1. Certain instructors are flexible

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30-40% 1. Typing skills	1. Know you will need typing skills	1.	1. Advising. Keyboarding workshop. Assess keyboarding skills.	1. Offer keyboarding classes Some let others type papers
35% 1. Family care / Emergency	1. Communicate with instructor	1.	1. Be realistic about time.	1. Communicate
10-15% 1. Staff / Faculty help	1. Know to make an appointment Know who to go to	1.	1. Accessible instructors - Use their phones. Have longer office hours. My ptcportal workshop. Student email.	1. Helpful
5% 1. Change of instructors during semester	1. Difficult to complete course	1. Tutors Withdraw	1. Reaction time by admin.	1. Instructors will encourage