

April 11, 2002

New Dropout Re-Engagement Program Revs Up for Fall Launch

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A new resource to locate students who have dropped out and help them back to school to complete their education is moving steadily toward a fall launch, say Albuquerque Public Schools officials.

The Albuquerque Public Schools Dropout Re-Engagement program headed by Russ Hague combines a safety net of social services with a systematic tracking and placement system that will incorporate gender, ethnicity and language information about each student in addition to school information. Because the new program's intake phase is designed to provide a safety net for students; Hague will help coordinate necessary social services, mental health and health referrals and counseling services.

"We've designed a holistic approach to the dropout problem. We need to set up those links to resources for students and ask what's the cause for dropping out; life issues often are the cause," Hague says. "Seniors who are short a few credits top the list. Middle school students are another top priority."

Hague also intends to help elementary and middle schools create tighter tracking systems for student data entries. Any successful tracking program must have links with other organizations so the program has better access as to the whereabouts of any one child.

Formerly an assistant principal at Eldorado High and Los Lunas Middle School, Hague spent 21 years in the Navy working in communications and anti-submarine warfare. After obtaining his master's degree in education, he became a naval instructor and master training specialist.