

### Crucial Moments (from KIPP Alumni Stories)

Some of the top challenges that alumni encounter that can lead to dropping out of college.

#### 1. I Don't Have What It Takes To Succeed Here

- First bad grade on test or paper
- Professor insults you.
- Work really hard, but do poorly
- Fall way behind on assignments
- Feel as if you can't compete.
- Cumulative failures
- Time management/balance of freedom

#### 2. This Costs Too Much

- Lose scholarship
- Aid didn't add up
- Family financial problems
- Accumulation of debt
- Guilt about family debt
- Working to fill the gap

#### 3. Lack Of Vision Or Path—Not Worth It.

- Discover your major won't get you where you want to go--career path connection
- Don't believe your classes are worthwhile
- See better options all around you—military, community college, jobs, etc.
- Don't believe your college will get you where you want to go.

#### 4. Life Change/Pull from Home

- Homesick
- Illness or death in family
- Personal illness/injury
- Family needs me to work
- Family works against me
- Pregnancy

#### 5. Fish Out Of Water—Don't Fit In Socially, Bad Campus, Etc.

- Don't have friends
- Don't respect others on campus—racist, partiers, etc.
- Roommate problems
- Don't like the campus or community.

#### 6. Wrong Friends, Friends With Different Goals

- Friends party too much
- Friends don't see the value of college
- Friends aren't doing well.
- Friends drop out.

#### 7. Quicksand

- General feeling of being overwhelmed
- I'm paralyzed by this decision
- Don't know how to ask for help
- Mental health issues
- Drugs and alcohol
- Tried a bunch of things they haven't worked

# **KIPP:** THROUGH COLLEGE

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REGIONAL RETREATS