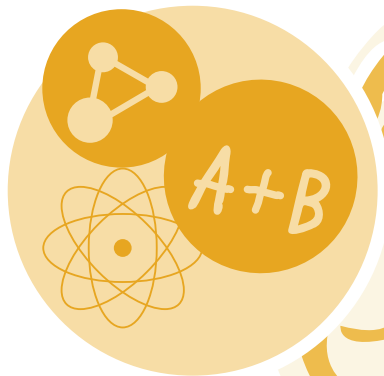


MIDDLE SCHOOL A LAST, BEST CHANCE

THE ADOLESCENT BRAIN GOES THROUGH A CRITICAL NEUROLOGICAL TRANSITION DURING THE MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARS.



The changing frontal lobe impacts self-control, organization, and problem solving.¹



The brain 'sprouts' as adolescents engage creatively and navigate new social dynamics.²



Across the country, youth experience an "achievement dip" during adolescence.³



grades and test scores plummet



attendance drops



students disengage from school work

75%

of low-income sixth graders WILL NOT GRADUATE⁴ high school if they...

attend school less than 80% of the time

fail math or reading

exhibit unsatisfactory behaviors in school

High-quality expanded learning can help raise student achievement through engagement and mentoring during the critical middle school years, a leading indicator of success in college and beyond.⁵

^{1,2} Use It or Lose It: The Adolescent Brain. The After School Corporation. 2014. www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHS7vIcwRXY
³ Preventing Student Disengagement and Keeping Students on the Graduation Path in Urban Middle-Grades Schools. Robert Balfanz, Lisa Herzog and Douglas J. Mac Iver. 2007. www.new.every1graduates.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/preventing_student_disengagement.pdf
⁴ Putting Middle Grades Students on the Graduation Path. Robert Balfanz. 2009. https://www.amle.org/portals/0/pdf/articles/policy_brief_balfanz.pdf
⁵ Pathways to the Middle Class: Balancing Personal and Public Responsibilities. Isabel Sawhill et al. 2012. www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Papers/2012/9/20-pathways-middle-class-sawhill-winsip/0920-pathways-middle-class-sawhill-winsip.pdf?la=en