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.\(^1\)

Across the country, youth experience an “achievement dip” during adolescence.\(^3\)

Grades and test scores plummet.

Attendance drops, and students disengage from school work.

75% of low-income sixth graders will not graduate 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.\(^5\)

\(^1\) Adapted from The Adolescent Brain: The Whole Brain Corporation, 2016, www.psd.edu/virtual/psd/vpsd1886


\(^3\) Pivoting Middle-School Students on the Transition From Robert Budding, 2020, https://www.nfc.org/product/pivoting-middle-school-students-on-the-transition-from

\(^4\) Pathways to the Middle: Closing the Re-Enrollment and Academy Dropout Rate, 2010, www.pathways2themiddle.org/images/_Pathway2_10042010_Finals.pdf

\(^5\) Pathways to the Middle: Closing the Re-Enrollment and Academy Dropout Rate, 2010, www.pathways2themiddle.org/images/Pathway2_10042010_Finals.pdf