



Dear Community Leader,

Raleigh County Schools invites you to participate in a community stakeholder meeting to discuss dropout prevention. Your input and cooperation would be invaluable as Raleigh County makes plans to design extension activities to high school freshman and sophomores in an effort to curb school frustration that often leads to eventual dropout. Raleigh County is committed to providing a high interest, skill driven experience for these youngsters in an effort to spark interest and make real world connections to the school curriculum.

The mechanism driving this initiative is the potential for funding via WV Department of Education Innovation Zone Grants. The WV Department of Education accepts Innovation Zone Grant Applications once annually with a maximum award of \$100,000 per year for a three-year period.

According to statistics calculated for a 2009 study presented by Northwestern University in Boston, a high school dropout equates to an average tax burden of 292,000 dollars over their lifetime. Using these numbers, over the last four years Raleigh County residence and community businesses have accrued \$110,000,000 of tax burden.

Please consider joining Raleigh County schools to review, discuss and give recommendations for a comprehensive action plan to assist in improving the graduation rate and decreasing dropouts among our youth. Together we "Can make a difference one student at a time".

Date: Monday, September 28th

Time: 3:00 pm

**Place: Raleigh County Board of Education: Munson Hall
105 Adair St.
Beckley, WV**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Allen Sexton", written over a horizontal line.

Allen Sexton,
Graduation 20/20 Coordinator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sherri Morgan", written over a horizontal line.

Sherri Morgan,
Dropout Prevention Coordinator