

Outcomes for LINKs: Benefits to High School Peers

Data snapshot



The START LINK Outcomes Study, conducted in 2012-2014, involved 204 peer LINKs from eight high schools representing a range of rural, suburban and urban settings in Michigan (Owen-DeSchryver et al., 2022).

For this project, school staff reported academic and behavioral data for LINK students during the semester before they participated in the program and then compared it to the first semester they were a peer support. Four of these high schools also provided data for the second semester where students served as LINKs. Visit the [START website for more information \(gvsu.edu/s/28m\)](http://gvsu.edu/s/28m) on this study.



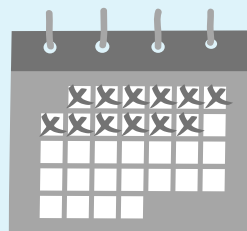
GPA INCREASED

On average, the GPAs of students with low GPAs increased and continued to increase through their second semester as a LINK.

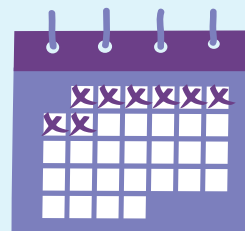


ABSENCES DROPPED

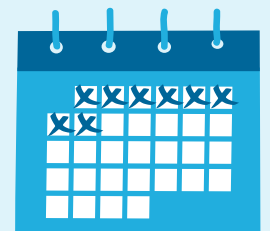
On average, absences for students with low GPAs decreased by 4 days and remained lower through their second semester as a LINK.



12.5
BEFORE LINK PARTICIPATION



8.1
1ST LINK SEMESTER



8.6
2ND LINK SEMESTER



BEHAVIORAL REFERRALS DROPPED

89% of students with 2+ behavioral referrals before becoming a LINK had 0 BEHAVIORAL REFERRALS during their second semester as a LINK.