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Implications for practice
HS. Dev. Proj.

High school is one of the most important periods of time in a student's life. The transition and growth that can be seen between 9th grade and 12th grade is enormous. Educationally speaking, these final years of public education provide us with the last chance to prepare students for the world that awaits them.

One of the things I learned in touring schools and talking with students is the high school students really enjoy being a part of a community. The various clubs, sports and activities are the fabric of a high school community. Every student should be provided an opportunity to find their niche and work towards discovering or uncovering their interests. As a school leader, I would work to ensure a variety of programming is available for students.

Some schools have found success in incorporating clubs and special interest groups during the school day while supporting student academic needs. On a recent visit to North Edgecombe High School, I observed a "POWER" schedule. POWER is a period of time in the middle of the day where students have some choice in how to spend their time. They might attend tutorials for a subject they need help in or participate in a club. Additionally, they can determine when to have lunch. I would explore creative scheduling options as a school leader in an effort to accommodate student interests and provide remedial time for academics.

High school students and counselors are also tasked with ensuring graduation requirements are met. In addition to working towards graduation, students may find themselves completing other important items: drivers education, SAT/ACT prep & testing, college applications, jobs/employment and increased responsibility at home. As students progress towards senior year, they consider themselves more independent and adult like in many ways. As

a school leader, it is important to provide support for students during this period of great transition and in some cases uncertainty. Providing students with strong academic support and mentorship would be a goal of mine as a future leader.

We need to make sure that students are aware of the opportunities they can generate by graduating high school and selecting a post-graduation path. This is key to making an impact in our Eastern Carolina communities. Students need to be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel so that they know that their academics efforts have a purpose and meaning. I would partner with businesses, community colleges, trade schools and universities to ensure that the students in my school have ample access and knowledge to post-high school opportunities.