

Discussing a Mentoring Intervention Program in Portugal as a strategy to prevent academic failure and drop-out

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Mentoring programs are an intervention strategy in school properly framed by the Portuguese legislation, which aims to promote school success and simultaneously prevent school drop-out. The experience of implementation of a mentoring program in a secondary school in the Great Porto Area, aims such achievement in three broad areas: development of study skills, social and behavioral skills, and then, mainly the mobilization of social networking. A large proportion of students included in the program, (all adolescents) come from at-risk families with low level of schooling and low socio economic status. The mentoring program seems to be reflected in most cases as one of the protective resources that the school may ensure in the lives of those teenagers, because it ensures the monitoring of students, promoting empowerment, independence, self-esteem, assessed by the school success and absence of school drop-out.