

Reasons of students dropping out of school

Introduction:

Everywhere in Europe we have to deal with students who leave school too early, also in the Netherlands. In The Netherlands more boys than girls appear to drop out of school. A possible explanation for that is that boys appear to often show more "extreme" bad behavior than girls. But of course, that's different for every individual. Another fact is that the older the student is the more chance he or she has of dropping out of school. For example: at the age of sixteen there is higher chance of you dropping out than at the age of 10. Normally, students don't just wake up one day and think, "I think I want to drop out of school," No, those problems start at young age. By that we mean that if you already have a problem at the age of 4 years old with, for example, the language, then of course you can improve that problem but sometimes those problems will only stack up and eventually get so bad that it will cause you to drop out of school.

Some general reasons:

Some of the general reasons why students are dropping out of education in the Netherlands are personal reasons, failing to many classes, bullying, drug problems, and lastly teen pregnancies. With personal reasons we mean, the problems at home or the problems that just count for you, yourself. Another reason why a student would drop out of school is the fact that he or she is just failing to many classes and just can't catch up to where everyone else is. That's not very motivating, and that's why it could be a reason why a student would drop out of school. Then we have the bullying problem. Sadly it happens a lot, everywhere, including in the Netherlands. Bullying is no fun at all and especially for the person who is being bullied. Being bullied at school is horrible. For the person who is being bullied it can be so bad that he or she doesn't want to go to school anymore, simply cause they're afraid what will happen to them. And then we have the problem with drugs and teen pregnancies. Sometimes students make the wrong decisions, like drugs or not planned pregnancies and these are also problems that will cause them to drop out of school.

Home situation:

The home situation is a very important part of why a student would drop out of school. It is proven that students with parents with lower incomes are more likely to drop out of school. The chance of them dropping out of school is 50% more likely than the students with parents who have a higher income. The chance of them dropping out of school is only 15%. An experiment showed that students with parents who have their own business have the smallest chance of dropping out of school. The explanation for that is that the students might look up to their parents and might want to take over the company ones they grow up. Students who come from a very poor family also have a higher risk of dropping out of school. Probably because they are so poor and might need to help their family, financially, by

working and earning money. Something that we didn't think would matter was whether you come from a big or a small family. But actually we found out that if you have more than 4 siblings or don't have any siblings at all, you also have a higher chance of dropping out of school. There is not really a good explanation but this was just the conclusion from all the experiments. Then there is the most important thing that you can get from your family. And that is support. Lack of support is also a factor that can also cause students to drop out of school early. We all know that school can be very hard sometimes, and in those times it's always nice to have someone say to you, "come on, you can do it," to just give you that little support that you need at that moment. I think that we can all agree on that if you don't have that, it can be tough sometimes. For some students it can even cause them to drop out of school.

School environment:

Students dropping out of school also has to do with the different kinds of schools throughout the country. Students who go to smaller schools have a smaller chance of dropping out early compared to the larger schools. This is probably because the smaller schools might be able to give students more individual help than the larger schools, since they have more students. Just like schools with higher standards. Students who go to schools with higher standards are less likely to drop out, they are less likely to drop out by 25%. And then lastly we have the schools in the larger cities, like Amsterdam. The students who go to those schools also have a higher risk of dropping out early. And that is because those schools are normally very large as well.

The interviews

The interview with a student who dropped out of school himself:

- Why did you leave school back then?

A few days before the summer holidays they said that I needed to redo the year. Before I knew that, I already did an solicitation at an other school for my further education, because I needed to redo the year I couldn't go to that school anymore, so I decided that I wouldn't go to school anymore.

- Where there people at your school who tried to help you?

No, I thought they were there to help themselves and not me. There were no positive solutions for me.

- Which possibilities did you have when you dropped out of school?

After about 6 weeks I got an email from the school that they had given me up for an time-out school.

- Do you regret dropping out of school?

Yes, because I had the time of my life and no, because if I had stayed in school, I would be able to do a higher education right now.

- Do you have any ideas or solutions for students who are wanting to drop out of school?

Yes, I think that it would help if the people at school would listen to the students and accept some feedback.

The interview with a school employee:

- Why do students drop out of school?

There is more than one reason. Some students move out, some students have problems at home, and then there are other reasons why they want to drop out of school.

- Are there professionals at your school who help these students?

At our school work specialists who can help students who needs help and support.

- Which possibilities do students have when they drop out of school?

There are enough possibilities for the students who drop out, they can follow a lower education, a higher education or participate in other projects.

- Do you think that students who drop out of school regret it?

It really depends on the situation of these students.

- Do you have some ideas or solutions to prevent that students will drop out of school?

We can talk with the student about what he or she really needs and then based on that we can make a conclusion.