

Risky Business summarizes the best thinking of not only participants in various planning processes, but also those they represent. It is not meant to compete with other publications being written by fellow academics. It is a generalist's portrait, nonpartisan, drawn from articles, books, web searches and correspondence with colleagues. This manual should not be viewed as final and unalterable. Instead, what began, as a product for resources and professional development should become a "blueprint," because while it provides a framework, its objectives and strategies can be modified as conditions and needs change.

This manual includes the following sections:

- Section 1:** Provides an overview of at-risk youth in the new millennium.
- Section 2:** Depicts strategies and programs for at-risk youth from around the globe.
- Section 3:** Suggests that when schools, families, communities and businesses work together, everyone prospers.
- Section 4:** Explores how safe learning environments are paramount to student success.
- Section 5:** Provides presentation materials and resources that support at-risk youth.

Defining the term "practice"

For the purposes of this manual, a "practice" is what a person or organization does in order to achieve a particular result or benchmark. "Practices" occur on a continuum ranging from broad concepts or philosophies to very specific actions. Synonyms for "practice" may therefore include "process," "program," "technique," "activity," "strategy," "tactic," "procedure," "policy," "approach," "concept," or "philosophy." A "promising practice" or "best practice" is a practice that has been shown, by credible evaluations, to be demonstrably effective in helping to achieve a result or benchmark.

(REFERENCE: The Georgia Academy at www.ga-academy.org)

A digital version of this manual is available at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesarb/public/s-t-c.htm>

