

## **The Choice Bus - A Powerful Dropout Prevention Tool**



### **75% of prison inmates dropped out of school**

Keeping kids **in** school will help to keep them **out** of prison! **The Choice Bus** is an experience-based learning tool designed to show young people the power of education, as well as the likely consequences of choosing to drop out of school. It contains a full scale replica of a prison cell which is hidden behind a curtain and flat screen television. On entering the bus, a four-minute movie will quiz the audience on the earning potential of a dropout versus a high school and college graduate. The movie also features several powerful testimonials from people who regret dropping out - prison inmates. When the movie is finished, the cell is revealed demonstrating the stark reality experienced by many dropouts. Students are then invited into the prison cell to briefly experience the uncomfortable living conditions. As students exit the bus, they receive a pledge card and are asked to make a commitment to finish school and make good choices. **The Choice Bus** experience is approximately twenty minutes long and is designed for grades 6-10.

#### **The Choice Bus Objectives**

- 1) For students to understand the link between dropping out of school and the likelihood of spending time in prison
- 2) To stimulate discussions about the importance of making good choices and the potential consequences of making bad choices (i.e., personal responsibility, choosing friends wisely, paying attention in class, etc.)
- 3) To encourage students to commit to finishing high school
- 4) To demonstrate the relevance of education to earning potential/salary on an annual and lifetime basis
- 5) Open students' eyes to the opportunities that await those with an education

For more information or to book **The Choice Bus** visit: [www.mattiecstewart.org](http://www.mattiecstewart.org)