

**PROJECT NAME:** Project Choice  
**PROJECT LEAD:** Franklin C. Shontz, Ph.D.

**TIMELINE:**

**CONTENT AREA:**

**FUNDER:** Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation

**CLIENT:**

**AUDIENCE:**

**RESEARCH  
METHODOLOGY:**

Project Choice, a dropout prevention program for low-income, high-risk high school students, is helping students stay in school by providing various kinds of assistance, as well as tuition for college or trade school as an incentive to graduate.

**OVERVIEW:**

On April 7, 1988, Ewing Kauffman unveiled plans for Project Choice at Westport High School, his alma mater in Kansas City, Missouri, and invited students and their parents to sign up for the program. Between 1988 and 1992, nearly 1,400 9th grade students in the Kansas City, Kansas, and Kansas City, Missouri, school districts agreed to be part of Project Choice. Students and their parents agreed that the student would maintain satisfactory grades, receive tutoring, avoid parenthood, avoid disciplinary problems in school and in the community, abstain from using illegal drugs and graduate on time with his or her class. In exchange for adhering to the terms of the Project Choice agreement, the Kauffman Foundation agreed to provide a paid college or vocational education at a state or regional institution of the student's choice.

**LINKS:**