

## Red Flag Warning System

The “red-flag” warning system is designed to enable a teacher to catch students before they fall into failure.

Step 1:	As you plan your lessons anticipate where students might have difficulty given past performance, mistakes typically made by students, and your experience with them.
Step 2:	Plan how to respond by designing interventions such as graphic organizers, study guides, supplementary readings and additional help sessions.
Step 3:	Identify various objective “flags” that would identify students in need of additional support. For example, any student who earned less than 75% or missed more than one-fourth of questions on a test or quiz.
Step 4:	Any student receiving a “red flag” they go into an intervention cycle and receive progressively more intensive interventions. Once back on track the student exits the intervention cycle.

### Essential Points:

1. Red flags should be unambiguous. You shouldn't debate with yourself or with the student about whether a red flag has been triggered.
2. Red flags should be hard to ignore. You don't want to search for them. They must be easy to recognize and hard to ignore.
3. Red flags should trigger action. Once a student receives a red flag you must be ready to provide an intervention.
4. Red flags should focus on academic concerns, not on behavior. You should focus on helping students get on track academically. Other interventions should deal with discipline or behavior management.

Adapted from: Jackson, R. (2010). Flagged for success. *Educational Leadership*, 68(2), 18-21.