Dist. 20 officials work for and achieve high graduation rates

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GHS bucks state, national percentages.

About 75% of the nation's students graduate from high school.

Statewide, the rate is much better as Nebraska's percentage hovers around 89%.

Closer to home, nearly 97% of the senior class at Gothenburg High School received a diploma in 2010.

Ask Gothenburg High School principal Randy Evans about the secret to the district's success and he'll tell you they work at it.

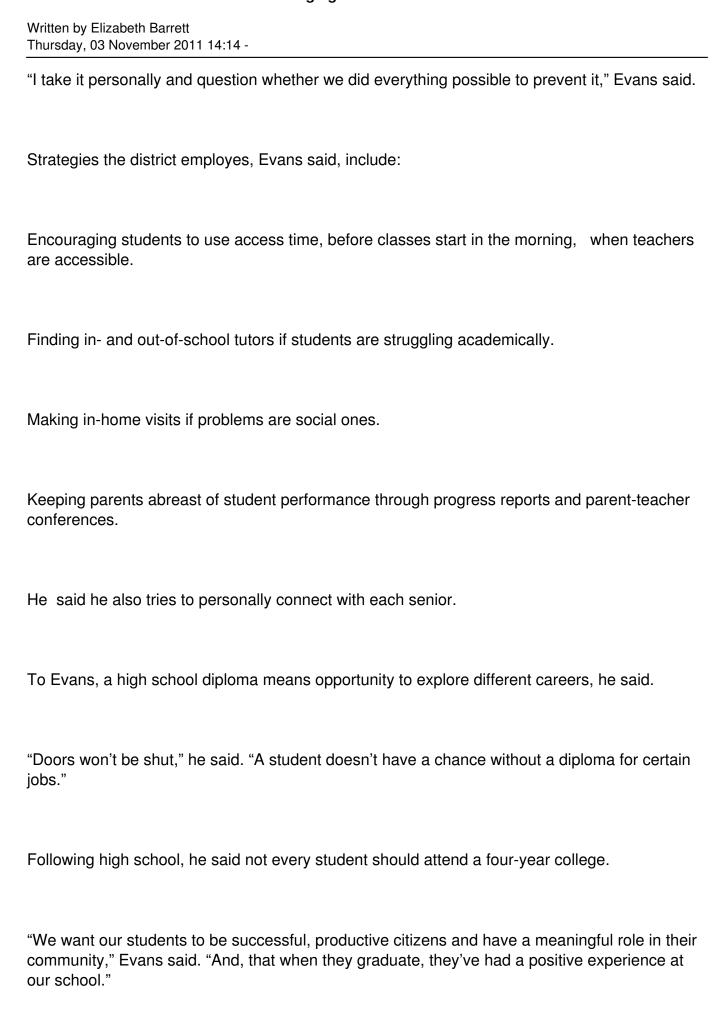
"I think we're blessed here with interventions and strategies before a student even decides to drops out," Evans said.

When a student decides to leave school, he said he thinks the school failed in some way.

"We try not to judge but it hurts," Evans said.

Reasons why students leave school, he said, include social issues such as a teen becoming pregnant, getting behind in school work and giving up, or deciding to work full time.

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