

# Understanding At-Risk Youth



The iceberg is an appropriate metaphor for understanding our at-risk students. The tip represents the observable behavior problems. The part below the water line represents those social, emotional, psychological and family systems issues that may be creating or contributing to the observable problems. To effectively intervene and affect change we need to map and understand the conditions below the waterline. A plan of action and intervention logically follows from that understanding while not losing sight that it is a whole child we are addressing.