

AGENCY OF EDUCATION
Barre, Vermont

TEAM: School Finance

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education grant renewal of approval as an Other Education Program to the Rutland County Parent Child Center's Teen Parent Education Program in Rutland, VT, to serve a maximum of 25 pregnant and/or parenting students in grades 7-12?

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the State Board of Education grants renewal of approval as an Other Education Program to the Rutland County Parent Child Center's Teen Parent Education Program in Rutland, VT, to serve a maximum of 25 pregnant and/or parenting students in grades 7-12. This approval is for three years, through June 30, 2019.

Approval is subject to the condition that this program immediately report to the Agency of Education whenever any changes occur in programs, policies, facilities, financial capacity, staffing, or administration during the approval period.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Title 16 V.S.A. §1073(b)
State Board of Education Standards I-IV

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. The Rutland County Parent Child Center's Teen Parent Education Program (TPE) is a day program designed to serve a maximum of 25 students, female and male, in grades 7-12. The goal of the TPE program is to provide pregnant and parenting students with a holistic education encompassing the academic requirements of a traditional school, valuable life skills, parenting, and guidance. The program operates 175 days per school year.
2. The Rutland County Parent Child Center is licensed to operate an early childhood program by the Division for Children and Families.
3. The TPE program is located in what is known as the Carriage House at the Rutland County Parent Child Center. The classroom is designed in a family style, with one large table and two smaller stations for students to share. The classroom has three computer work stations as well as two laptops which allow for mobility. A private office is located upstairs for testing or academic meetings. Family support specialists have private offices located on a separate floor. The program affords an opportunity for the participants to attain on-the-job training in the following worksites: early childhood, office management, and culinary arts. The program has been working to improve the worksite component to include community businesses as potential internship placements. OJT is one of the program's six basic

components; the others being academics, counseling/therapy, parent education and support, job readiness activities, and interpersonal skills. The program has received a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) from the Division of Fire Safety.

4. All TPE Program participants must be enrolled in a public school. The academic programs for the TPE students are developed on an individual basis in coordination with the enrolling school. There is a written agreement between the center and the enrolling school, which outlines the course(s) to be completed, the credit goal, and credit transferability. This agreement is signed by the student, parent/guardian (if applicable), and the school's counselor and administrator. The TPE students also have number of support services available including on-site mental health counseling, parenting education/child development, transportation, and case management. Currently there are six TPE students enrolled.
5. The TPE Program has three full-time teachers, who are qualified by training and experience in the areas of English, social studies, math, science, and family and consumer science. The Lead Teacher oversees the TPE program's academics. The Parent Child Center is operated under the director of an Executive Director.
6. The school district of residence, pursuant to Act 192 of the 2007-2008 legislative session, pays the teen parent education program 83 percent of the prior year's statewide average net cost per pupil as calculated under 16 V.S.A. §825 minus debt service, prorated based on the pupil's full-time equivalent enrollment in academic courses at the teen parent education program.
7. The enrolling school district is responsible for special education services to qualifying students. The TPE works with the participant's school districts, which provides the services either directly or through contract with a private or public educational agency.

COST IMPLICATIONS: none

STAFF AVAILABLE:

Cassandra Ryan, Finance Analyst
479-8545