

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 New Horizons Educational Program of the Lund Family Center in South Burlington, VT, to serve pregnant and parenting female adolescents and young women in grades 7-12?

SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the State Board of Education grants renewal of approval as an Other Education Program to the New Horizons Educational Program of the Lund Family Center in South Burlington, VT, to serve pregnant and parenting female adolescents and young women in grades 7-12. This approval is for three years, through June 30, 2020.

Approval is subject to the condition that this program immediately report to the Agency of Education whenever any changes occur in enrollment, 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 New Horizons Educational Program (NHEP) is one of the many programs operated under the auspices of the Lund Family Center, whose mission is to help children thrive by empowering families to break the cycle of poverty, addiction and abuse. NHEP specializes in educating pregnant and parenting female adolescents and young women. The goal of NHEP is to support mothers in continuing their education while addressing the issues of being pregnant and/or parenting. The program serves both residential students from throughout Vermont, and day students from the Chittenden County area. The program serves students in grades 7-12, with the average number of program attendees being from 12-14. NHEP students range from 12 years of age and up, with most students between the ages of 15 to 22.
2. NHEP operates year-round programming with rolling admissions. The Lund Family Center is licensed by the Division for Children and Families to serve twenty-six residents and their babies ages 0-5. Lund is also licensed to operate an early childhood program from the Department for Children and Families.
3. NHEP utilizes two main classrooms for the majority of core academic classes, one classroom dedicated to English and social studies and the other to math and science. NHEP also has access to a variety of meeting and office space within the Lund facility to

support students in meeting their academic needs as well as the outdoor space on Lund's grounds that allow for additional experiential learning. NHEP has a library/lounge that offers space for digital media presentations, as well as an alternative quiet space for the students to work independently or in small groups. There is a fully equipped kitchen space that is used as a communal breakfast/lunch food prep and dining area, and used for life skills cooking classes and science lab (using common kitchen ingredients and everyday supplies). A Certificate of Occupancy (CO) issued by the Division of Fire Safety is on file at the Agency of Education.

4. Curriculum at NHEP is designed to meet the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). NHEP works individually with students to create educational plans in coordination with the enrolling public/independent school to support each student's academic goals. Educational plans often include a plan to graduate on schedule with peers, make up missing credits, transition back to their enrolling school, attend postsecondary education programs or prepare for technical training. Academic classes are held during the mornings in 60-minute blocks. In addition to required academic classes, students also participate in a variety of Lund's specialized programming to demonstrate competency in the core areas of--life skills, family education, mental health, and substance abuse education, health and wellness, and art expressions. In conjunction with these classes, a number of therapeutic groups facilitated by clinical social workers, substance abuse counselors, residential counselors, nursing staff, family educators or a clinical psychologist prepare students for self-sufficiency.
5. The NHEP staff includes two full-time Vermont licensed educators, who are qualified to teach math/science and English/social studies. The teaching staff and teen parent education program is overseen by the Learning Together Program Coordinator. Also employed is a Title 1 tutor who provides approximately 12 hours per week of student academic support. A Teen Pregnancy Prevention Outreach Specialist provides sexual health education, intentional family support, and case management support to reduce barriers to school attendance. Since NHEP students are still enrolled in their sending school districts, the IEP process is maintained by the LEA. NHEP teachers attends all IEP meetings to insure that accommodations are addressed. Related services, if needed, are provided via contact.
6. NHEP rates are set through the Private, Non-Medical Institute (PNMI) process at the Agency of Human Services for the residential students at the Lund Family Center. For the day students, the school district of residence 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 prorated based on the pupil's full-time equivalent enrollment in academic courses at the teen parent education program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: None

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