

**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 Addison County Parent Child Center's Teen Parent Education Program in Middlebury, VT, to serve a maximum of 15 pregnant and/or parenting students in grades 9-12?

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the State Board of Education grants renewal of approval as an Other Education Program to the Addison County Parent Child Center's Teen Parent Education Program in Middlebury, VT, to serve a maximum of 15 pregnant and/or parenting students in grades 9-12 for a term through June 30, 2022; and

This approval is subject to the condition that this program reports to the Agency of Education within five business days 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 Addison County Teen Parent Education Program (TPE) is a day program designed to serve a maximum of 15 students, female and male in grades 9-12, who are pregnant and/or parenting. The Addison County Parent/Child Center, a nonprofit parent education and training program in Middlebury, and serves three districts in Addison County. Occasionally, they work with other nearby districts. The goal of the TPE program is to support and provide an in-house program to assist pregnant and parenting adolescents in earning their high school diplomas or pursue other secondary education options, concurrent with receiving parenting education support for managing the joys and challenges of remaining in school as a young parent. The year-round program operates 26.5 hours per week from September to June and 24 hours per week for eight weeks in July and August.
2. The Addison County Parent Child Center is licensed to operate an early childhood program by the Division for Children & Families. The on-site child care center is also accredited by the VT STARS rating system at 5 STARS.
3. The Addison County Teen Parent Education Program (TPE) is housed in a building specifically built with this program in mind. Classes are held in many different areas of the building according to the specific student or class needs. A unique feature of the building is the existence of an onsite office, childcare and kitchen job sites. All three areas serve as job

sites providing students embedded credit as well as real life hands-on learning opportunities. In addition, there are meeting rooms and computer spaces available to students. The first floor is handicapped accessible. On the upper level there are offices for the out-reach staff and the nurse's office. Students spend nine hours per week "on the job" learning job readiness skills. The building received a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) from the Division of Fire Safety for use as an educational facility.

4. The students' programs are developed on an individual basis, and each school district works with the educational coordinator to create individualized learning plans. The TPE students are required to be enrolled in a public 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 enrolling school's counselor and administrator. Each student also works individually with the outreach staff of licensed social workers supporting their unique social, emotional, financial, vocational challenges, and successes. At the time the application was submitted there were 10 students in the program.
5. The Center employs a number of instructors who are qualified by training and experience in the educational areas in which they are assigned and in sufficient number to carry out the educational purposes of the program. A social studies instructor, a wellness and science instructor, a science/greenhouse lab instructor who is a former high school history teacher, a math instructor, and a licensed English teacher who is a literacy co-teacher. A Co-Director at the Parent/Child Center oversees the program and teaches social studies on a limited basis. The center also employs an Education Coordinator, who teaches English and is licensed in special education.
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 TPE's Education Coordinator works in collaboration with the student and the student's school district. Related services, if needed, are provided via contract.

COST IMPLICATIONS: none

STAFF AVAILABLE:

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479-8545