

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?

SECRETARY'S 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, 2022; and

This approval is conditional on the requirement that the school reports to the Agency of Education within five business days 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 Rutland County Parent-Child Center (RCPCC) is one of 15 parent-child centers located throughout Vermont. RCPCC is a community-based, non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and meeting the needs of children, youth and families. RCPCC operates a Department for Children and Families (DCF) licensed child care program. This program is also recognized by DCF as a four stars program.
2. The Rutland County Parent Child Center's Teen Parent Education Program is a day program designed to serve a maximum of 25 students, female and male, in grades 7-12. The purpose of this Program is to provide pregnant, at-risk for early pregnancy, parenting students, and at-risk students, with a holistic education which encompasses the academic requirements of a traditional school, valuable life skills, parenting, and guidance. The program operates year-round for a minimum of 175 days.

3. The TPE program is located in 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. A copy of the Certificate of Occupancy (CO) from the Division of Fire Safety is on file at the AOE.
4. All TPE Program participants must be enrolled in a public school. The Learning Together Lead Teacher works with the TPE students to develop a learning plan which meets the academic needs and interests of the student. There is a written agreement between the Program 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 guidance counselor and administrator. Most curriculum and instructional materials are provided through the Program; and schools have been very supportive with resources as well. Each student in the program has access to a Family Support Specialist with wrap around services from the Rutland County Parent Child Center (RCPCC) either through Reach UP or Children's Integrated Services. Family Support Specialists work with students to support them in identifying their strengths and overcoming barriers which may interfere with their success. The TPE students also have a 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 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. On the Job Training (OJT) is one of the Program's basic components; the others being academics, counseling/therapy, parent education and support.
6. The TPE Program has four full-time teachers, who are qualified by training and experience in the areas of English, social studies, math, science, art, and family/consumer science. The full-time Director of Programming oversees the TPE program academics. The Parent Child Center is operated under the auspices of an Executive Director.
7. 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.

8. 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.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: none

STAFF AVAILABLE:

Cassandra Ryan, Fiscal and Regulatory Compliance Coordinator