

**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 Brook Street Family Literacy Center's Teen Parent Education Program in Barre, VT, to serve a maximum of 12 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 Brook Street Family Literacy Center's Teen Parent Education Program in Barre, VT, to serve a maximum of 12 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. Under the auspices of the Capstone Community Action Council, the Brook Street Family Literacy Center operates a Teen Parent Education (TPE) Program. Brook Street Family Literacy Center's TPE is a day program designed to serve a maximum of 12 students, female and male in grades 7-12, who are pregnant and/or parenting. Capstone is a nonprofit organization serving the needs of families in Central VT. The educational purposes of the Family Literacy Center is to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and low literacy in Central Vermont families by providing intensive and integrated wrap-around educational services to expectant and parenting students. The program operates 178 days per school year.
2. Capstone has Head Start classrooms for children who need care while a parent(s) is at work or attending school. This program is located in the building used for the TPE program and is licensed to operate an early childhood program by the Division for Children & Families. The onsite child care center is also accredited by National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).
3. The TPE program is housed in the historic Brook Street School in Barre. The Center is in a light-filled, accessible second floor classroom, where students work individually and in small

groups to achieve their education goals while their children, one floor below, are enrolled in the Head Start Early Childhood Center. A smaller classroom serves as a testing site, meeting room, and a place for small group work. In the lower level of the building there is a full kitchen and a large space for art, cooking and fitness activities. Accessibility in the building is via an elevator. The program has received a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) from the Division of Fire Safety for use of the building for educational purposes.

4. The programs for the TPE students are developed on an individual basis, and each school district works with the TPE program staff 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. The TPE students also have a myriad of services available at no cost—parent education and training, health and nutritional resources, physical and mental health services, family literacy activities, etc. Currently there are ten adolescents participating in the program.
5. The TPE program has a full-time, licensed teacher who is qualified by training and experience to teach the core subject areas. There also is a .8 FTE Family Literacy Center Coordinator who oversees and administers the program. Other professional staff members who work with the program participants are an Early Head Start Home Visitor, a Learning Together Center Family Partner, and a part-time Mental Health Consultant.
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 student's school district 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