

AGENCY OF EDUCATION

Barre, Vermont

**TEAM:** School Finance

**ITEM:** Will the State Board of Education grant renewal of Other Education Program approval to **The Family Place's Families Learning Together Program** in Norwich, VT, to serve a maximum of 15 pregnant and/or parenting students in grades 9-12?

**ACTING SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**That the State Board of Education grants renewal of Other Education Program approval to The Family Place's Families Learning Together Program in Norwich, VT, to serve a maximum of 15 pregnant and/or parenting students in grades 9-12. This approval is for three years, through June 30, 2021.**

**That the program must report to the Agency of Education within five days whenever any changes occur in programs, policies, facilities, 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 Family Place operates the Families Learning Together Program (FLT). The Family Place was designated as a Parent/Child Center for Windsor County by the VT Agency of Human Services (AHS) in 1988. The FLT's educational purposes is to enhance the ability of young parents and expecting parents to improve their child(ren)'s lives by completing a high school education, increasing job readiness, gaining life and parenting skills, and increasing their knowledge of child development.
2. The Families Learning Together Program is day program designed to serve a maximum of 15 students, female and male in grades 9-12. The FLT Program operates four, ten week terms during the academic school year, as well as a six-week summer session. Classes and program activities are held on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Yearly total days of operation are approximately 180 depending on snow days.
3. Referrals to the FLT Program come from The Family Place staff, Reach Up, outside non-profits such as The Haven, VT Division for Children and Families (DCF), Vermont Adult

Learning, Hartford High School, The Junction and other institutions and individuals who interact with teenagers.

4. The Family Place is licensed to operate an early childhood program by the Division for Children & Families. The on-site childcare center is also accredited by the VT STARS rating system at 5 STARS.
5. The Family Place includes three separate buildings. The Carriage House is a one-story, wood-framed building which houses the child care program in two separate rooms. Behind this building is a fenced-in play yard. The second building, The Cape, houses the remodeled kitchen and dining spaces as well as a large meeting room. The Olcott Building includes the classroom space and computer stations, the jewelry studio, and the community room that is used for various purposes including playgroups. The Families Learning Together Program has three worksite experiences available to the participants: the childcare program, the kitchen, and the jewelry studio. Participants are assigned to all three worksites; and all three worksites include project-based learning. The Family Place has Certificates of Occupancy (CO) from the Division of Fire Safety for use of the facilities for educational purposes. Copies of these certificates are on file at the Agency.
6. All teen parent education program participants must be enrolled in a public high school or an approved independent school to attend FLT. At the present time, the Family Place works primarily with Hartford High School, Woodstock Union High School, and Randolph Union High School. Previously there were students enrolled from Hanover High School and Thetford Academy. The academic programs for the teen parent students are developed on an individual basis utilizing the enrolling school's curricula and graduation requirements. There is a written agreement between The Family Place and the enrolling high school, that outlines the plan for the participants education program, including course(s) to be completed, the credit goal, and credit transferability. This agreement must be signed by the program participant, parent/guardian (if applicable), the school principal, and the Learning Together Coordinator. The pregnant and parenting students also have a number of support services available including crisis intervention, weekly support group, on-site childcare, subsidy coordinator/support, individual counseling, transportation, and daily breakfast and lunch.
7. The Family Place employs core academic instructors who are experienced secondary education teachers. The Families Learning Together Program is overseen by the Families Learning Together Coordinator. Others on staff include a licensed mental health counselor, a registered nurse, a part-time Education Liaison, two Reach Up Case Managers, a Child Care Director, a kitchen supervisor, an art teacher, kitchen and jewelry studio supervisors, and a Family Support and Parent Educator.
8. The Family Place maintain student health, attendance, assessment records. Fire drills are conducted on a regular basis.
9. 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.

10. The enrolling high school is responsible for special education services to qualifying students. The Family Center works either with the schools, which provides the services directly or through contract with a private or public educational agency.

11. **COST IMPLICATIONS:** none

**STAFF AVAILABLE:**

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