

AGENCY OF EDUCATION
Barre, Vermont

TEAM: School Finance

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education grant renewal of Other Education Program (Teen Parent Education-TPE) approval to Northeast Kingdom Parent Child Center South's New Reflections Program in St. Johnsbury, VT, to serve a maximum of 20 pregnant and/or parenting students in grades 8-12?

SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the State Board of Education grant renewal of Other Education Program (Teen Parent Education-TPE) approval to Northeast Kingdom Parent Child Center South's New Reflections Program in St. Johnsbury, VT, to serve a maximum of 20 pregnant and/or parenting students in grades 8-12. 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 Northeast Kingdom Parent Child Center South's New Reflections Program is a day program designed to serve a maximum of 20 students, female and male in grades 8-12, who are pregnant and/or parenting. The Northeast Kingdom Parent Child Center South serves students from Caledonia and Southern Essex counties. The goal of the 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, and to provide job coaching and life skills supports for future success, concurrent with receiving parenting education support. Referrals to the program come from local schools, Reach UP, outside non-profits, Vermont Adult Learning, and institutions and individuals who interact with young adults. The year-round program operates 22 hours per week. The Program staff are

also available on Fridays to provide individual support as requested or to provide time to makeup/complete assignments.

2. The New Reflections Program is housed in the Northeast Kingdom Parent Child Center South's facility. This location provides one classroom specifically for the teen parent education program. In addition, students have unlimited access to the rest of the building for special trainings/presentations, conference room space, and use of the gym. The Program has worksite experiences available to the participants in the building including the childcare program, basic clerical/reception duties, food shelf support, basic building maintenance, and community garden maintenance. The Northeast Kingdom Parent Child Center South received a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) from the Division of Fire Safety for use of the building as an educational facility. A copy of this certificate is on file at the Agency. Also in this facility is the St. Johnsbury Child and Family Development Program, which is licensed to operate an early childhood program by the Department for Children & Families.
3. The New Reflections Program participants are enrolled at East Burke School. The students' programs are developed on an individual basis using East Burke School's course syllabi. East Burke School will issue credit to students who submit completed portfolios to East Burke School that meet the standards set forth in the course syllabi and reflect completion of the agreed upon learning plan. There is a written agreement between the Program and East Burke 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 administrator. Support services available to students are provided by onsite staff and community partners. These services include working in collaboration with Reach-Up case managers to provide transportation and childcare. Guidance and counseling are provided onsite with outside support from community partners and referrals are made when appropriate. There are three teen parent adolescents enrolled at the present time.
4. The center employs part-time teachers for mathematics, science, social studies and English. A full-time Program Coordinator oversees the day to day operation of the program. The teachers are qualified by degree, training and experience to provide instruction in the core subject areas. The NEKCA Parent Child Center is overseen by an Executive Director.
5. The New Reflections Program maintains student health, attendance, assessment records. Fire drills are conducted on a regular basis.
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 high school is responsible for special education services to qualifying students.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: none

STAFF AVAILABLE:

Cassandra Ryan, Fiscal and Regulatory Compliance Coordinator