

Identification and Referral Process

- Identification of teen pregnancy by school nurse, social worker, guidance counselor, or Dropout Prevention Specialist
- Face-to-face conference with Student Services personnel (preferably school nurse or guidance counselor) or administrator at secondary school to discuss program options
- Eligibility is based on:
 - Student provides written verification of pregnancy from health department professional or physician
 - Student provides proof that they are the parent of a child under five years of age (birth certificate)
 - Student is under 21 years of age and enrolled in grade twelve and lower
 - Teen fathers will sign a statement with the mother that indicates parenthood
- Personnel must inform students of available options as noted below.

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Superintendent of Schools

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**DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
OF PASCO COUNTY**

Graduation Enhancement Program

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**DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
OF PASCO COUNTY**

Kurt S. Browning, Superintendent of Schools

Teen Parent Program

Pasco's Teen Parent Program provides a voluntary educational program and childcare for students who are pregnant or are parents. Students participate in courses for credit toward a high school diploma including advance classes, as well as courses and activities in childcare, parenting, and pre and postnatal health. Teen fathers may choose to participate in Teen Parent Programs at their regional home school, or Cyesis center and can participate in child development in the daycare setting. This Graduation Enhancement and Academic Intervention Program is supported by basic FTE and Supplemental Academic Instruction funds.

Program Goals

- **To provide pregnant teens, teen fathers, and teen mothers with small children, with voluntary educational options that will provide for the special needs of these students.**
- **To decrease the number of pregnant teens, teen fathers, and teen mothers with small children, who do not complete a high school education.**

Grade Level of Students

The Teen Parent Program is designed to serve students from grades seven through twelve. Students in grade six and lower may be deemed eligible for the Teen Parent Program, but will require case-by-case consideration. Because of the special circumstances surrounding such young students, a meeting will be held with school administrators, parents, student services team (counselor, social worker, nurse), graduation enhancement teacher, and program supervisor to determine appropriate educational alternatives and services. Local agencies that offer support services to teen parents and their families will be invited as appropriate.

Option 1: Intended for those students interested in attending campuses that are in proximity to Cyesis Teen Parent Program sites

- Teen pregnant students can apply and receive School Choice to those campuses that are located in the vicinity of an established Cyesis Teen Parent Program Centers (i.e., Marchman Technical Education Center (west side of county) or Moore-Mickens Education Center (east side of county))
- Campuses in proximity to Cyesis Teen Parent Program Centers are:
 - Pasco High School
 - Ridgewood High School
 - Pasco Middle School
 - Chasco Middle School
- Transportation to the Cyesis Teen Parent Program Day Care centers will be available. Teen parent and their baby will be transported to the appropriate Cyesis Teen Parent Program Day Care (east or west side of county) and teen parent will be bussed to adjacent campus as noted above
- The teen parent will have the option of attending child development, pre and post natal health care and parenting classes at the Cyesis Teen Parent Program Center or can opt to obtain this information from the campus school nurse

Option 2: Intended for those students interested in attending Cyesis Teen Parent Program centers

- A conference will be held with the Cyesis Counselor, the applicant's parents, and the nurse
- The Cyesis Counselor will complete a student information form. The applicant will receive a class schedule and bus route information. The applicant's parents will complete the consent form (as appropriate)
- Teen mothers will be transferred to the Cyesis Teen Parent Program Center within one week of completing the application process
- Teen fathers will begin receiving services at their regional home schools if they do not choose to enter the program at the Cyesis Teen Parent Program Center
- Infants/toddlers will be enrolled in on-site day care centers at the time of the mother's or father's admission into the program if applicable. Other infants will be enrolled when the mother returns to school after the infant is born. Children two weeks of age until age three may remain at Cyesis Teen Parent Program Center with teen parent. Children above the age of three up to four years are served in the Pre-K or Headstart programs
- Students (including teen fathers) are enrolled in child development, pre and post natal health care and parenting class
- Transportation will be provided for teen parents and their children
- Access to honors/AP courses will be available on campuses adjacent to the Cyesis Teen Parent Program campus (see locations below)

Option 3: Intended for those students interested in accessing education through Pasco eSchool

NOTE: Pasco eSchool accepts new registrations at semester breaks only. Mid-semester transfers are not possible.

- Student contacts Pasco eSchool office for registration and enrollment information
- A registration appointment with the Pasco eSchool guidance counselor will be scheduled, to review the academic needs of the teen parent(s) and to provide information about the virtual instruction program
- The student must attend an orientation session to review program expectations, policies, and learn about the online course management system
- The teen parent will be required to participate in monthly calls, discussion-based assessments, and the district assessment plan at the Pasco eSchool site
- Transportation is not provided for participation in required testing sessions held onsite
- Computer hardware and internet subsidies are available for students who meet eligibility requirements under Florida statute
- The teen parent receives parenting curriculum

Child care services may be available through Early Head Start for students opting to stay at home. Identified students will complete an application to determine eligibility for Early Head Start comprehensive services.

Option 4: Intended for those students interested in remaining at their neighborhood school

- Student Services personnel will provide guidance and assistance for those teen parents that decide to remain at their home school
- School nurses will work with identified students to provide child development, pre and post natal health care and parenting information
- Child care services may be available through Early Head Start for students opting to stay at their home school. Identified students will complete an application to determine eligibility for Early Head Start comprehensive services
- The teen parent receives parenting and pregnancy curriculum information from EHS staff and or the school nurse. In addition, the EHS program also offers home-based services for teen parents who have chosen to use a voucher to obtain childcare through the Early Learning Coalition
- EHS staff and nurse will come to the home for weekly home-visits to provide parenting and pregnancy information, and will adjust their schedule when reasonable to accommodate the parent's availability