

# Young Parents Program

## Young Parents Program

### What is the Young Parents Program?

Teenage mothers and fathers have unique educational needs. Young Parents Programs are designed to keep parenting students in school by providing school-based child-care services. This program is also used in some school districts to teach pregnancy prevention. Funds for Young Parents Programs are provided through a competitive grant process, and each participating school district is required to provide a 100 percent match to the state grant (at least 50 percent of the total cost of the program).

### What is the Philosophy?

The major goal of the Young Parents Program is to enable teenage parents to stay in school and complete a high school education. The infants and toddlers of young parents are at high risk of disabilities, health disorders and developmental delays. Parenting education is provided at the school to help students meet the responsibilities of their new role as parents. Teen pregnancy prevention is taught to nonparenting teenagers by exposing them to the realities of parenting as an adjunct to the regular school curriculum.

### What are the Program Components?

- High school education for young parents
- Child-care services for the children of young parents
- Parenting education and information on child development
- Linkage to other resources in the community

### Who are the Eligible Grantees?

All school districts are eligible to compete for funding when additional funding is provided under the legislative appropriation.

### What is the Legislative Authority?

Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-74c authorizes the use of state funds by grantees for the Young Parents Program. Grant applications are solicited annually from local and regional boards of education. Legislation requires grantees to contribute at least 50 percent of the total cost of the program.