

GRADS Program Information

Graduation, Reality, And Dual-Role Skills. The major goal of GRADS is to keep pregnant and parenting teens in school, with additional goals of encouraging good health care practices, helping young parents set occupational goals, and delaying subsequent pregnancies.



Audience Validated by the U.S. Department of Education's Program Effectiveness Panel, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, for all pregnant and parenting teens, male and female, in grades 7-12 from city, community, county, and vocational school districts in urban, suburban and rural communities.

Description Graduation, Reality, and Dual-Role Skills (GRADS) is an in-school Family and Consumer Sciences instructional and intervention program for pregnant and parenting teens, male and female. Objectives focus on graduation and retention, positive health care practices, knowledge of positive parenting practices, setting vocational and career goals, balancing work and family and delaying subsequent pregnancies. The instructional component is based upon competencies identified in the *GRADS Ohio Competency Analysis Profile* and the *Adolescent Parent Resource Guide*, which helps students apply practical reasoning skills in all content areas. The community outreach component strengthens family involvement as well as the involvement of community agencies and organizations. The advisory committee component builds strong school and community support for the program. The evaluation component determines program effectiveness.

Evidence of Effectiveness Pregnant and parenting teens enrolled in the program are more likely to remain in school during pregnancy and after childbirth; are more likely to obtain early prenatal care; are less likely to deliver low birth weight babies; are likely to increase their knowledge of positive parenting practices; and are less likely to have a subsequent pregnancy while still in school.

Requirements A vocationally certified Family and Consumer Sciences teacher must attend a two-day training. Materials needed include the *GRADS Ohio Competency Analysis Profile* (OCAP) and the *Adolescent Parent Resource Guide* (APRG). In the school, teachers must have class time for instruction and conference time for other student interventions such as individual conferences and family and agency contacts. Equipment needs include student tables and chairs, file cabinets, lockable storage, audiovisual equipment and a telephone available at all times for private conversations.

Costs Awareness (1-3 hours) and 2-Day Training costs include travel expenses and per diem for the presenter, and presenter fees. Materials must be ordered from the Center for Education and Training for Employment, The Ohio State University, 614-292-4277, 800-848-4815, ext. 24277 or www.cete.org/publications.asp. The *GRADS Ohio Competency Analysis Profile* and the *Adolescent Parent Resource Guide* may be purchased by any school.

Services In addition to training and materials, the project can provide updates, technical assistance and processes for monitoring and evaluating program effectiveness. Awareness materials are available at no cost.

Sponsors The Ohio Department of Education and The Ohio State University, Department of Human Development and Family Sciences.

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