

MANSFIELD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM for STUDENT PARENTS DESCRIPTION AND SERVICES OFFERED

The Life Skills Program for Student Parents (LSPSP) are support services the pregnant and parenting student receives to help her adjust and stay in school during the pregnancy and postpartum periods. The program is designed to provide preparatory services, including instruction in basic academic and occupational skills, career guidance and training that will furnish pregnant and parenting students with marketable skills. The program assists students with referral on transportation services, dependent care, special support services, information on vocational and applied technology education programs, and access and referral to state support agencies.

The students in the Life Skills Program for Student Parents are offered the following courses in the area of child development:

Preparation for Parenting	1/2 credit
Child Development	1/2 credit
Individual and Family Living	1/2 credit

The option of entering the Life Skills Program for Student Parents classroom, located at the Mansfield Alternative Education Center, in lieu of the traditional classroom setting, is open to all pregnant students during the pregnancy and postpartum periods. A modified, five and one-half hour per day program is available to the pregnant teen six weeks prior to delivery until six weeks after delivery. Compensatory Education Home Instruction (CEHI) is available to those with medical problems.

Job readiness training is addressed through career and technology courses, as well as college preparatory classes offered in the Mansfield ISD. All pregnant and parenting students receive career counseling and information.

Individual and group counseling is made available through a strong counseling component. Each pregnant and parenting student has an Individual Education Career Plan (I.E.C.P.) on file. A weekly support group, led by the parenting teacher and social worker, is available to all pregnant and parenting students and provides peer counseling. Medical counseling is offered by the school nurse and personnel at the Well Baby Clinic. Crisis intervention services are provided by Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors for students who are high risk for using alcohol, tobacco or drugs.

The MISD Truant Officers provide counseling for pregnant and parenting students with attendance problems. Students not in compliance with compulsory attendance laws may write a letter of appeal to the Campus Attendance Hearing Committee to explain the extenuating circumstances of their absenteeism.

Computer hardware and software is utilized to aid students with reading, writing, mathematics, and critical thinking skills. Each pregnant and parenting student is monitored for satisfactory academic performance evidenced by grade reports, testing and promotion, and criterion-referenced measures of performance. A PRS student, while also being served in CEHI, will continue to receive the same amount and type of career and technology service that she was receiving before being placed in CEHI. Tutoring sessions are made available for all pregnant and parenting students who are having difficulty in class.

Child care is provided at a licensed facility or in a registered home in close proximity to the parenting student's home or school. Child care is provided free of charge to every parenting student in need of assistance. All pregnant and parenting students are given information on Child Care Management Services for future help.

Transportation services are provided to each pregnant and parenting student and their child. A bus is provided equipped with seat belts and infant car seats. The bus driver transports the student to child care facilities, school, medical appointments, social service agencies, and work, if necessary.

The Parenting Teacher/Coordinator assists all pregnant and parenting students in accessing the following agencies and/or groups:

- Child Care Management System
- Child Protective Services
- Department of Human Services (Medicaid, Food Stamps, AFDC)
- First United Methodist Church (Thrift Shop, clothing and furniture)
- Mansfield ISD 'First Step' Program
- Neighborhood Resources Development Center
- Tarrant County Health Department (Well Baby Clinic)
- Tarrant County Housing Authority
- Texas Attorney General's Office
- Texas Workforce Commission
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

The Life Skills Program for Student Parents provides for employee travel for home visits of students enrolled in the program.

The Life Skills Program for Student Parents has an established Advisory Council which meets regularly. The membership of the Advisory Council consists of representatives of the following organizations and agencies: Texas Department of Human Services, Texas Workforce Commission, CCMS representative, local day care association representative, family nurse practitioner, campus principal, at-risk counselor, school nurse, vocational director, central office administrator, school board member, coordinator of special services, parenting education teacher/coordinator, homebound instructor, pregnant and/or parenting students and parents.