

The Fatherhood Project (TFP) Teen Dads Program at the Boston English High School 2014-15

Why A Program For Teen Dads?

National data indicate that teen parenthood is a leading reason that 26% of students drop out of school. Applied to our state, this accounts for approximately 2,600 Massachusetts high school students who leave school each year. Teen parenthood is an important reason that 33% of girls and 19% of boys drop out of high school in the U.S. each year.

Pregnant and parenting teens are driven to succeed, despite the substantial challenges they face. We must shift our response to teen pregnancy so that we capitalize on teen parents' unique motivation and push them to meet high expectations. We must match our high expectations with the kinds of innovations, flexibility, and opportunities that will help teen parents meet their responsibilities as parents and reach their potential as students.

About TFP's Teen Dads Program

In an effort to contribute to the decline in teen pregnancy and reach this underserved, at-risk population – often referred to as 'the forgotten partner in teen pregnancies' – TFP's Teen Dads Program provides expecting & parenting teen fathers in Boston area public schools with support, skills and resources.

Many of these young dads feel alienated and experience a lot of judgment from their family, from their friends, at school. Our co-facilitated group model provides them with a safe, educational and positive place to be with others going through similar experiences, as well as to learn important relationship skills.

The content of the group meetings is based the stories young fathers share about their everyday lives – the challenges they face, the strengths and resources they draw upon – interspersed with skill-building activities, information about child development (including the latest in brain science), practical parenting tips, 'virtual visitors' (topical guests brought in via video), and other useful resources.

TFP's Teen Dad Program is an excellent complement to services for teen mothers, and ultimately enables young fathers to achieve success as students and as parents.

*"I appreciate you guys being here and having a place to come get advice, and be listened to... otherwise I would've kept it all inside because I don't have anyone else I can talk to about fatherhood."
- High School Senior, Father of Twin Daughters*

Summary

- Two meetings per month (8 total)
- Four student/father participants (6 babies)
- 90 minute sessions, lunch provided
- A total of 25.5 hours of service were delivered
- A "Dad Kit" was given to each participant



Sample of "Dad Kit"