

## Ohio Graduation, Reality And Dual-role Skills (GRADS) Program Fact Sheet (June 2009)

*Work and Family Studies instructional and intervention program for pregnant and parenting students*

### History

In the late 1970s, education leadership placed an added focus on high school dropouts. It was determined that pregnant and parenting teens made up a large percentage of this at-risk student population. Title IX (education amendments of 1972) prohibited schools from expelling teens that were pregnant and/or had children. Graduation, Reality And Dual-role Skills (GRADS) began in 1980 with three pilot programs in Ohio. The primary objective was to keep pregnant and parenting students in school through completion of grade 12. As the program grew and reported success in Ohio, other states adopted the model.

### Goals

The objectives of the GRADS program are to help students:

- Remain in school through graduation;
- Have healthy pregnancies and healthy babies;
- Learn practical parenting and child development skills;
- Gain an orientation to work;
- Set goals toward balancing work and family; and
- Reduce subsequent pregnancies.

### GRADS 21<sup>st</sup> Century Rationale

**OHIO Education Management Information System (EMIS) data** – The need for GRADS is still evident with 2,169 pregnant 15 to 19 year olds enrolled in the program in Ohio. In FY2008 (2007-08 school year), there were 5,444 pregnant and parenting students in approximately 145 Ohio GRADS programs.

Additional data include:

- 17 percent were employed while in school;
- Eight percent were enrolled in a two-year or four-year postsecondary education and employed;
- 35 percent of the GRADS students advanced a grade level;
- 40 percent returned to school or enrolled in a GED course; and
- Four percent dropped out of school with no high school completion.

**OHIO Self-Reported Survey through the Office of Career-Technical Education** – The number of pregnancies during FY2008 was 2,693 with 313 fathers taking an active role. There were 2,416 live births, 13 stillbirths and 212 miscarriages.

**NATIONAL Center for Health Statistics Data** – In 2006, there were 435,435 births to mothers aged 15 to 19 in the United States – 42 births per 1,000 females in this age group. This represents a three percent increase from 2005 and the largest increase in a single year for 15 years. In that same reporting year, birth rates for 10 to 14 year olds declined slightly from 0.7 to 0.6 per 1,000 girls.

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