

Program Goals

- To encourage educational achievement and career planning for the participant.
- To improve parenting skills and knowledge of child development.
- To promote healthy interpersonal relationships and healthy family functioning.
- To delay a subsequent pregnancy until after the participant has graduated from high school.
- To promote the optimal health and development of participants and children.



Background

In 1980, Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey (PCA-NJ) created the Parent Linking Program (PLP), known then as the Parent Linking Project, in response to a local and national concern about the pervasive and enduring social, economic and educational consequences of teenage pregnancy. The project was launched in several local high schools within the state of New Jersey. Several years later, PCA-NJ came to realize that the lack of affordable child care was a major barrier in preventing students from completing their high school education. As a result, PLP's services were expanded in 1984 to include child care, parenting education and life skills workshops. Today, there are nine Parent Linking Programs providing comprehensive Services in nine high schools in the state of New Jersey.

"The project/publication described was supported by Grant Number SP1AH000046-01-01 awarded to NJ DCF by the US Dept. of Health and Human Services' Office of Adolescent Health" and state funds.

"Contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the NJ Department of Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services or the Office of Adolescent Health."

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

PREVENT CHILD ABUSE NJ
103 CHURCH STREET
SUITE 210
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08901

732-246-8060

WWW.PREVENTCHILDBUSENJ.ORG



The Mission: To prevent child abuse and neglect in all forms for all New Jersey children.

THE PARENT LINKING PROGRAM PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Empowering & Equipping
Expectant and Parenting
Adolescents



Another program of  Prevent Child Abuse
New Jersey

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES FUNDED PROGRAM

~
IN THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR...

**87% OF THE SENIOR PARTICIPANTS
GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL**

**99% OF STUDENTS ENROLLED
IN THE PROGRAM DID NOT HAVE
A SECOND PREGNANCY**

**79% OF OUR PLP STUDENTS
WERE HISPANIC***

*JOHN HOPKINS EVALUATION
~

Teen parents are at a greater risk of socioeconomic disadvantage throughout their lives than those who delay childbearing until their twenties. The Parent Linking Program supports expectant and parenting adolescents in an effort to prevent present and future child abuse and neglect. The program's goal is to support the teenage parent's self-esteem and knowledge of parenting and child development by encouraging the teen parent to complete high school and delay repeat pregnancies. Any expectant or parenting teen who attends a sponsoring high school is eligible to participate in the program.

**“ PLP TAUGHT ME HOW TO
MANAGE BETWEEN
SCHOOL AND BEING A
PARENT WITHOUT
GETTING STRESSED.”**

- FEMALE PLP STUDENT, 12TH GRADE

Locations

Camden High School

Woodrow Wilson High School (Camden)

Eastside High School (Paterson)

New Brunswick High School

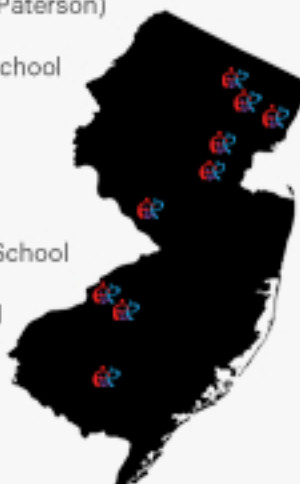
Passaic High School

Plainfield High School

Trenton Central High School

Union City High School

Vineland High School



Services Provided

Child Care (most sites)

Located in the high school or at a community based child care center within 1 mile of the school. Sites that do not provide child care connect students to child care services.

Transportation (most sites)

Participants who utilize PLP child care may also qualify for free transportation to and from school.

Individual Sessions

Monthly individual sessions assist expectant and parenting teens with meeting their parenting, educational and personal goals and challenges.

Group Sessions

Weekly group sessions provide information about child development, parenting, positive parent-child interaction, life skills and intimate partner violence while allowing participants to gain support from their peers.

Home Visits

Each teen receives a home visit where case managers engage and observe the student in his/her home environment with an effort to build a stronger relationship with the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian.

Annual Teen Conference

Participants may opt to attend a day of teen empowerment filled with educational workshops and opportunities to meet other teen parents from across the state. Scholarships and raffles prizes are provided.

Incentives, Incentives, Incentives!

Participants who attend regular services are offered incentives for school attendance, good grades and participation in various activities. Incentive programs vary from high school to high school.