STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT PARENTING TEENS, SINGLE PARENTS, AND PREGNANT MOTHERS

PRESENTED BY:
BRITTANY BOSTON, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR EQUITY AND OUTREACH
ILLINOIS CENTER FOR SPECIALIZED PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT
creates, supports, and delivers professional development for career and technical education professionals across Illinois

- provides technical assistance, develops publications, and facilitates program improvement strategies for our partners

- focuses on transition, recruitment, retention, and completion—encouraging achievement of special populations learners

- founded in 1977 at Illinois State University
BE SURE TO GRAB THE HANDOUTS

- Presentation Slides
- FY 21 Professional Development

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DEFINE
POTENTIAL BARRIERS
INFORMING AND RECRUITING
SUPPORTS AND SERVICES
DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
PARENTING TEENS, SINGLE PARENTS, AND PREGNANT MOTHERS

- unmarried or legally separated from a spouse and has a minor child or children
- Pregnant adults and teens
- Single or parenting teens
POTENTIAL BARRIERS

- lack of affordable childcare
- disruption in school or course work as a result of pregnancy related absences and maternity/paternity leave
- lack of proper support systems
- difficulty obtaining or lack of accommodations related to pregnancy and parenting
- partner with your local community college for CTE exploration days
- inform students on the different career options within CTE and how they can get started during high school
  - many CTE programs allow students to work as they obtain certifications or a degree in their field of choice
- emphasize potential earnings and timelines for completion when informing students about specific CTE programs
- partner with local agencies and programs that support single parents and teenage parents to assist in promoting CTE
- provide all staff and students with professional development on Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
- review policies on services for students with temporary medical conditions
  - review the school’s policies regarding absenteeism and truancy to confirm pregnant and parenting teens’ rights are protected per Title IX
- counselors and advisors should be aware of local childcare options and financial supports available to parenting students
- keep an up to date “resource library” of local agencies that students can be referred to for any of the following:
  - mental health services
  - childcare
  - tutoring
  - supplemental nutrition programs
  - early childhood education programs
allow students to have access to academic instruction and stay connected during their maternity/paternity leave

students receiving supports and services through an Individualized Education Program (IEP) must continue to receive the supports during pregnancy and any parenting related absences from school

reasonable accommodations must be provided to students both during and after pregnancy

- larger desks
- elevator access
- cellphone access for emergency calls
- adjustments to class schedules
- freezing grades while on maternity/paternity leave
- private space for nursing mothers and proper milk storage

provide appropriate supports, services, and accommodations to parenting fathers as well
SUPPORTS & SERVICES

- offer counselor services several times throughout the semester
  - track student progress
  - provide opportunities for career assessments and exploration
  - assist in goal planning and a tailored academic plan
  - provide academic intervention
- school nurses can aid in pregnancy identification, referrals to quality prenatal care, parenting education and education regarding prevention of future pregnancy, and referrals to clinical services and healthcare
- set up student support groups for pregnant and parenting teens
  - reach out to former students or individuals in their career field of choice who had a similar experience and can address the need for role models
QUESTIONS
Out-of-workforce Individuals

- Wednesday, March 10th at 2:30 PM
- https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2906558299090316560
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