Maintain Teen REACH Afterschool Programs at $13.8M
Support Safety, Academic Achievement & Success

The Governor has proposed eliminating Teen REACH in FY16, despite acknowledgement by administration officials that it is a high quality program with proven outcomes, and acknowledgement by educators and law enforcement that ending afterschool programs opens the door to higher costs and more crime.

Eliminating Teen REACH puts almost 15,000 youth at greater risk of violence or risky behavior, ends academic support for students at risk of dropping out, and further squeezes working parents. Teen REACH programs meet community needs and have recruitment strategies that emphasize underserved youth. Programs consider risk factors such as poverty, crime, prevalence of single-parent homes, drop-out rates, and prevalence of teen pregnancy.

Teen REACH funding for afterschool programs for at-risk youth should be maintained at $13.8 million.

Teen REACH is a high-quality, cost-effective out-of-school time prevention program with a track record of success. It provides:

- High-quality academic assistance, often provided by teachers
- A safe space that reduces risky behaviors such as criminal activities, violence, substance abuse, and sexual activity
- College and career preparation, including internships with career professionals
- Initiatives that promote positive youth development and leadership skills
- Working parents additional time to be at their jobs

Teen REACH is cost-effective – only $3.00 per hour per youth.

Teen REACH is monitored, evaluated and accountable. It is a separate afterschool program run by DHS and unaffiliated with other youth initiatives. Providers are required to use effective program models and meet staff qualification standards. All programs comply with quarterly performance monitoring and report on outcomes.

TEEN REACH WORKS!

ACADEMIC BENEFITS

- 99.3% of Teen REACH high school seniors who graduated, compared to 86% statewide average (For students participating 10/12-8/13)
- 93% of Teen REACH students tracked improved their grades
- 81% improved their school attendance
- Studies show that math achievement gaps can be eliminated among students with high afterschool participation

SAFETY BENEFITS

- 99.85% of Teen REACH youth were safe from violence during program hours. Afterschool hours are considered "prime time for juvenile crime" by law enforcement
- Studies have found that participants in afterschool programs may be 30% less likely to participate in criminal activities

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS

- 77% of Teen REACH youth improved anger management and conflict resolution skills

Demand for afterschool programs far outpaces supply:
In an earlier survey, 70% of youth indicated that they would not be in an afterschool program without Teen REACH.

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