Closing Teen REACH afterschool programs means more dropouts, more violence + more parents being forced to quit their jobs

Students are gearing up for school. But this school year, 15,000 students risk losing their Teen REACH afterschool program that keeps them on track to graduate and safe from violence.

Teen REACH afterschool + summer programs have not been funded since July 1. Programs have closed their doors, reduced the number of students served, cut hours, eliminated key program components, and laid off staff. Without immediate funding, all 15,000 students at 122 sites across the state served by Teen REACH risk permanently losing services.

**How many students have lost services?**
- More than 1,500 youth have lost Teen REACH afterschool + summer services, with another 572 at immediate risk
- 10-15 fewer program hours offered per week
- 16 programs have shut down
- 79 staff laid off

**Teen REACH programs would ultimately close without state funding.**
Communities where programs have been confirmed closed or are likely to close immediately:
- Carol Stream, Cass County, Charleston, Clay County, Crawford County, East St. Louis, Kankakee, Peoria, Rockford, Quincy, Sesser Valier, Tazewell County, Vermillion County, Chicago including: Englewood, Auburn Gresham, Brighton Park, Near West Side, Kenwood, Oakland, Logan Square, Midway, West Lawn, Portage Park, South Lawndale

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Law enforcement leaders were among the original advocates for Teen REACH

The after-school hours are known as the “prime time for juvenile crime.” A survey of police departments in Illinois found that juvenile crime jumps up by as much as 2 times after the school bell rings and before parents get home from work.

Making sure youth have supervised, safe and productive places to go during those critical hours is a serious concern to those of us who fight crime every day.

Richard H. Schmack
DeKalb County State’s Attorney

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**Students are paying the price**
- Students are losing high-quality tutoring and academic support that promotes graduation and college and career readiness
- Students are losing connections to mentors and professional role models
- Students are losing a safe, structured environment that keeps them safe from violence
- Parents are being forced have to choose between working and making sure their kids are safe

**Teen REACH Works**
- High-quality and cost-effective model, with regular monitoring and evaluation
- Supports graduation: 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.
- Keeps youth safe: 99.85% of Teen REACH youth were safe from violence during program hours. Studies have found that participants in afterschool programs may be 30% less likely to participate in criminal activities.

For more information, contact ShalliePittman at 312.516.5574 or SPittman@voices4kids.org