Supporting Expectant and Parenting Teens in Achieving Academic Success

Behavioral Health Collaborative Meeting
April 13, 2017
“An environment of encouragement and high expectations is critical for improving the educational outcomes of pregnant and parenting teens.”
My family was my inspiration to try even harder to start my career so that I can give them a better future.

-Brian
Title IX: Protecting the Rights of Pregnant and Parenting Teens

- Pregnant and parenting teens cannot be excluded from any part of the educational program (e.g., honors classes, sports, etc.)

- Student absences related to pregnancy or childbirth must be excused for as long as the students’ doctor deems the absences medically necessary

- Special services provided to students who have temporary medical conditions must also be provided to a pregnant student
NM Compulsory Attendance Policy

Pregnant and Parenting Students

- Ten days of excused absences with documentation of birth
- Excused absences for additional days missed if medically necessary
- Additional 4 days of excused absences per semester with documentation of pregnancy or child care if student is parent
- Time for make up work equal to absences
Teen Parent Challenges

- Negative attitudes and low expectations
- Knowing where to find help and navigating the system
- Staying in school
- Child care
- Transportation
New Mexico Successes

- 29 GRADS sites in 24 school districts
- Approximately 75 school based health centers
- Statewide system of home visiting programs
- Statewide teen dating violence program through Attorney General’s Office
Support for Expectant and Parenting Teens Grant

NMPED was awarded a 4-year Pregnancy Assistance Fund grant from Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health in August 2013.
Goals of New Mexico Project

- Strong state and local partnerships
- Teen family access to school and community services through NM GRADS
- Engagement of young fathers
- Awareness of teen dating violence
State Level Partners

- NM GRADS
- Local GRADS programs/school districts
- NM Attorney General’s Office
- CYFD
- DOH
- NM Alliance for School-Based Health Care
- Apex Education
Local Partners

**School**
- School social workers
- School nurses
- School-based health centers (SBHC)
- School counselors
- Teachers
- Case managers
- Fatherhood mentors

**Community**
- Home visiting programs
- Early intervention programs
- Domestic violence organizations
- Workforce partners
- Community health/mental health agencies
- Public Health Offices
- Indian Health Services
NM GRADS Program

- Statewide system with 29 sites
- 26 years of service to over 16,950 young parents
- For-credit class with 10 Competencies
- Case management
- Home/hospital visits
- On-site child care
- Peer education
- Access to school-based health centers and school/community health programs
NM GRADS Program

Encourages expectant and parenting teens to stay in school, access needed resources, become self-sufficient, graduate, and pursue postsecondary opportunities.
## Positive Impact of NM GRADS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Graduation Rate for teen parents</th>
<th>Repeat Pregnancies</th>
<th>Low Birth Weight Babies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRADS</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>2.45%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>71% all students</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>9,2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nationwide</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NM GRADS
Grant Components

- Case management
- Support for young fathers
- College/career readiness
- Early childhood/infant mental health
- Collaboration with school-based health centers and community partners
- Sustaining existing efforts
Case Management Model

- Student-Centered Approach
- School/Community Outreach
- Intake, Assessment and Service Plan
- Resource Team
- Continuum of Services
- Formalized Referral Process
- Service Coordination
- Staff Training and Professional Development
- Continuous Quality Improvement of Model
Student-Centered Approach

- Youth-friendly environment
- Student self-efficacy
- Strengths and assets
- Culturally-responsive
- Student confidentiality rights
- Opportunities for feedback on needed services
- Service learning and peer education
School and Community Outreach

- Support and buy-in from school and community
- School and community partnerships to increase awareness
- Engaging teen parents within schools and community
- Coordinating available resources and services
Assessing Need
Student Needs Questionnaire

The Student Needs Questionnaire immediately identifies areas of need for students and their families and provides opportunities to meet individually with the GRADS student.

- Basic Needs
- Education
- College/Career
- Readiness
- Employment Assistance
- Emotional/Behavioral
- Health
- Physical Health
- Reproductive Health
- Child/Children’s Needs
- Legal
- Other
Formalized Referral Process

- Formalized protocol and forms for handling referrals
- Documentation, monitoring and follow-up
- Assurance that recommended services were received and appropriate to need
- Two-way referral relationships
Continuum of Services

- School supports
- School-based health center services
- Government and community-based resources and services
Health Care

- Medical, prenatal and dental home
- Primary care
- Reproductive health and family planning
- Vision services
- Dental health services
- Physicals
- Immunizations
- Prescriptions/medications
Behavioral Health Care

- Individual, family and group counseling
- Screening for depression/postpartum depression
- Alcohol/substance abuse treatment
- Crisis intervention
- Teen dating violence information, screening and referrals
Services for Infants and Children

- Child care
- Early childhood services
- Early intervention services
- Preventive health care such as immunizations, well-child exams, dental screenings/treatment, and developmental screenings and evaluations
- Infant mental health services
Additional Supports

- Young father programs
- Parenting and life skills education
- Teen parent support groups
- Academic resources/assistance
- Post-secondary preparation/career planning
- Employment assistance
- Transportation
- Medicaid, TANF
- WIC
- Homeless and housing assistance
- Legal assistance
Supporting Young Fathers

- Parenting and nurturing skills
- Child development
- Positive paternal involvement
- Healthy relationships
- Co-parenting skills
- Goal setting
- College and career readiness
- Employment skills
Supporting Young Fathers

GRADS sites offer father-specific services through a formalized partnership with a local organization or an on-site mentor, including case management, counseling, support groups, and father-to-father mentoring.
Early Childhood/Infant Mental Health

- Partnerships with early childhood programs, including home visiting
- Developmental screenings at regular intervals, such as Ages and Stages Questionnaire
- Access to early childhood intervention services and resources
- Circle of Security Program
College and Career Readiness

- Educational goal plans
- Career interest inventories and skill assessments
- Partnerships with Career Technical Education programs, workforce partners and higher education
- Career Academies
Dating, Sexual and Domestic Violence

- Attorney General’s Office presentations on teen dating violence
- Peer education training
- Legal presentations and clinics on teen parent rights and responsibilities
- Website with resources on healthy relationships
Teen Dating Violence Public Awareness Campaigns

Campaigns in four counties with high prevalence of teen births and TDV
PED Statewide Advisory Committee

Focused on identifying the supports, partnerships, practices and policies needed to build responsive and accessible systems of support for young families
Young Parent Action Council

Young parents from New Futures High School and GRADS sites around the state, working in tandem with the statewide advisory committee.
2017 PED Town Hall Meeting

70 young parents and other key stakeholders across NM met to discuss the needs and challenges of young families and recommend solutions.
“A collaborative and coordinated effort is needed among schools, families, and communities to ensure that all children and adolescents achieve positive academic and behavioral outcomes.”

Jessica Aufrichtig  
Project Director  OAH Pregnancy Assistance Fund Grant  
Coordinated School Health and Wellness Bureau  
Public Education Department  
Jessica.Aufrichtig@state.nm.us  
505-827-1803

NM GRADS Program  
Sally Kosnick, Co-Director  
Jeanne Johnston, Co-Director  
575-835-1785  
www.nmgrads.org
Benefits for Young Parents Enrolled in NM GRADS Include:

- Supporting young families in schools which allow for academic, parenting and economic success that helps them thrive. For young expectant and parenting students, dropping out of school is often a protective measure against stigmatization and lack of equitable resources and support. With NM GRADS, young parents and their children feel supported and welcomed to continue their education while navigating their roles as young parents.

- Safe school environment providing a nurturing, supportive and proactive space for young parents to learn, become peer educators through their own learned experiences and develop healthy parenting skills and comprehensive decision making skills for themselves and their families.

- Caring adults who are highly qualified educators, case managers and fatherhood mentors providing in-class and case management support without shaming young parents.

- A CYFD licensed Child Development Centers where children are safe, secure and provide healthy early childhood education and community support for the entire family.

- Child development center staff who model positive parenting skills and promote healthy secure attachments between young parents and their children.

NM GRADS Supports Young Parents and Their Children

Last School Year (2015-16) the NM GRADS System:

1. Served 531 GRADS students in 28 NM GRADS sites across New Mexico.

2. Attained a 2.45% Repeat Pregnancy Rate (compared to a national rate of 17%\(^1\)).

3. Recruited 92 “pregnancy related” dropouts (HS graduates increase their earning capacity by 20%).

4. Maintained a 91% student high school retention rate.

5. Graduated 73% of teen mothers enrolled in NM GRADS, compared to only about 50% of teen mothers nationwide.

6. Helped reduce low birth weight rates to 2% (compared to the national average of 8%).

\(^1\)Kids Count 2016

New Mexico High Schools Need NM GRADS

By supporting educational goal setting and success, positive parenting, healthy relationships, college and career readiness, economic independence and healthy babies, young parents can meet their goals and model the value of education to their children who too will be entering NM schools.
With appropriate and timely interventions, many of the negative outcomes associated with teen pregnancy can be prevented. The more training and encouragement allotted to teen parents, the more promising their children's future will be.

**Benefits of NM GRADS Intervention**

- The Decrease of teen pregnancy nationwide is linked to increased access to education, support services and resources including increased access to reproductive and family planning healthcare and behavioral, structural and economic changes (Guttmacher Institute).¹
- Young fathers are supported through mentoring, increased awareness, education and initiatives like President Obama's "My Brother's Keeper" to encourage their ability to be an active parent.

**Fast Facts in the United States**

**NM GRADS competencies focus on transitioning adolescent parents into post secondary educational institutions and/or the workforce. Students have access to career exploration and assessment of individual aptitudes, learning styles, and interests to develop goals and dreams related to unique abilities and skills in the pursuit of employment and career aspirations.**

- College Graduates with a bachelor’s degree make 66% more than those with just a high school diploma.²
- Those with an associates degree make 17% more than high school graduates.²
- Those with a high school diploma or equivalent make 20% more than non-completers.²

**Positive impacts in intervention based programs supporting teen parents:**

- **Child Outcomes: Health** (such as pre-term births, low birth weight, hospitalization, and immunization)
- **Child Outcomes: Behaviors and Development** (such as problem behaviors and cognitive development)
- **Parent Outcomes: Reproductive Health** (such as repeat births and use of contraceptives)
- **Parent Outcomes: Mental Health and Behaviors** (such as mental health and substance use)
- **Parent Outcomes: Education, Employment, and Income**
- **Parenting Outcomes** (such as home environment, parent/child interaction, child expectations, and physical punishment)³

**Positive Impacts of NM GRADS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduation Rate</th>
<th>Repeat Pregnancies</th>
<th>Low Birth Weight Babies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NM GRADS</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nationwide</strong></td>
<td><strong>NM GRADS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.45%</td>
<td></td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹Guttmacher Institute, ²NCES: Annual Earnings of Young Adults (2016), ³Child Trends (2012)
NM GRADS COMPONENTS: INTERVENTION
NM GRADS provides training, technical assistance, assessment, and resources for all NM GRADS programs. Each site focuses on the ten NM GRADS competencies, including reducing repeat pregnancies. NM GRADS key elements are user friendly for district and school Educational Plans for Student Success that target at-risk youth and teen parents. NM GRADS Competencies are aligned with NM Performance Standards and Benchmarks in Health Education and the national Family and Consumer Sciences.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS
Our CYFD licensed Child Development Centers (at 17 sites) model effective parenting in an educationally stimulating setting with highly qualified staff. GRADS CDC’s promote healthy best practices including breastfeeding, nutrition, developing secure relationships and work with parents to encourage and educate positive life-style choices.

FATHERHOOD
Young fathers are supported both in the classroom and provided additional case management support by fatherhood mentors to meet the unique needs they have. Through relationship building, father-child focused activities and the 24/7 Dads Curriculum GRADS fathers are supported in their parenting and personal journeys.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS
NM GRADS focuses on both short and long term goal setting with young families to support high school graduation. Through Dual-credit, Advanced Placement and alternative educational opportunity GRADS students receive comprehensive support in CCR and develop a Career Plan and Portfolio including letters of recommendation, resumes and certificates.

NM GRADS 2016-17 Sites and Teachers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADS Site</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alamogordo High School</td>
<td>Christina Estrada</td>
<td>575-872-6500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academy of Trades and Technology (Alb.)</td>
<td>Inez Jacobs</td>
<td>505-765-5517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belen High School</td>
<td>Amanda Silva</td>
<td>505-966-1131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernalillo High School</td>
<td>Rebecca Cestello</td>
<td>505-607-2328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Prep</td>
<td>Bunny McComb</td>
<td>505-366-4980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital High School (Santa Fe)</td>
<td>Lauren Whitehurst</td>
<td>505-467-1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central High School (Gallup)</td>
<td>Tomi Jaramillo-Campos</td>
<td>505-721-2427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Century High School (Los Lunas)</td>
<td>Julie Dutchover</td>
<td>505-866-2453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cesar Chavez (Albuquerque)</td>
<td>Pearl Dilucchio</td>
<td>505-877-0558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobre High School</td>
<td>Brian Miller</td>
<td>505-537-4020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba High School</td>
<td>Janelle Chavez</td>
<td>505-328-5405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deming High School</td>
<td>Alysia Trujillo</td>
<td>575-546-2678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hatch High School</td>
<td>Irma Saenz</td>
<td>575-267-8230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hidalgo Medical Services</td>
<td>Paula Methola</td>
<td>575-542-2357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hobbs Boys and Girls Club</td>
<td>Amy Guzie</td>
<td>505-338-4658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence High School (Rio Rancho)</td>
<td>Pam Smith</td>
<td>505-764-5500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Academia de Esperanza</td>
<td>Kissa Dixon</td>
<td>575-527-9400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Las Cruces High School</td>
<td>Holly Smith</td>
<td>575-739-2230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lovington High School</td>
<td>Nancy Brown-Cortner</td>
<td>575-854-8014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena High School</td>
<td>Samantha Redford</td>
<td>575-527-9430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oñate High School</td>
<td>Stephanie Tedford</td>
<td>505-494-0755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity High (Silver City)</td>
<td>Jodi Baca</td>
<td>575-355-7715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portales High School</td>
<td>Kelsey Armijo</td>
<td>575-527-6058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Grande Preparatory Institute (Las Cruces)</td>
<td>Gretchen Chase</td>
<td>575-630-7908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruidoso High School</td>
<td>Keith Richards</td>
<td>505-467-2994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Fe High School</td>
<td>Brad Hofmann (Fatherhood/Case Manager)</td>
<td>575-835-0700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socorro High School</td>
<td>Mary Spears</td>
<td>575-751-8000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University High School (Roswell)</td>
<td>Natasha Mackey</td>
<td>575-627-2750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2015 - 2016 RESULTS

- 531 teen parents were enrolled in 28 NM GRADS programs across the state.
- The NM GRADS program had a 2.45% repeat pregnancy rate vs. 18% statewide.
- Only 2% of babies born to GRADS students were of low birth-weight (the average for NM is 8.8%).
- 92 previous HS drop-outs were recruited back to school this past year, which generated approximately $371,473 for school districts (a total of $10,401,245 for over 3,950 GRADS students recruited back to school since NM GRADS began in 1989).
- Graduated 73% of teen mothers enrolled in NM GRADS, compared to only about 50% of teen mothers nationwide.

COLLABORATION
In addition to public schools, the NM GRADS System collaborates with the following agencies:
- NM Public Education Department
- APEX
- Young Fathers of Santa Fe
- Attorney General’s Office
- Pegasus Legal Services
- NM Alliance for School-Based Health Care
- Jerome Romero (Peer Education)
- Home visitation and intervention prog.
- District, State and National Partners

YOUTH LEADERSHIP/PEER EDUCATION
Our Prevention Education Facilitator trains GRADS students to be peer educators on various risk taking topics such as FASD. This enables them to inform peers and adults in their schools and communities about the consequences of these and other risky behaviors.
GRADS PLUS: Federal Grant Supporting Expectant and Parenting Teens

The state-wide system began as an in-school program for teenage parents and has since added on-site Child Development Centers, Career Readiness, Youth Leadership, and Fatherhood.

MISSION STATEMENT

The NM GRADS System facilitates graduation and the pursuit of higher education and/or employment, ensures appropriate case management for healthy babies and families, promotes healthy multi-generational parenting skills, fosters leadership, self-sufficiency and good citizenship as contributing members of society, and educates students on ways to reduce risk-taking behaviors for their entire family. GRADS works to remove barriers to ensure successful students who are also successful parents.

GRADS Key Elements

Through Title IX, GRADS students are insured a safe supported class with a highly qualified teacher, a case manager and a fatherhood mentor to help students reach goals in education, family planning and parenting, as well as healthy relationships. In addition, instruction in financial literacy, physical, mental and reproductive health care, along with inter-personal skill building and balancing multi-generational roles are also integrated in the goals of the program. The students are supported with safe on site CYFD licensed Child Development Centers to further assist the pursuit of their education, positive parenting and economic stability objectives.

SYSTEM GOALS

Through our continued partnership with the NMPED, GRADS students have enhanced support in the areas of Case Management specifically in Young Father Support, College & Career Readiness, Early Childhood & Infant Mental Health and Intervention. Additionally local and statewide collaborations have been developed to increase access to resources and services for the young families we serve.

What is NM GRADS?

The NM GRADS System is funded by the NM Legislature and through a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Adolescent Health Pregnancy Assistance Funded Grant, administered and overseen by the NM Public Education Department.

This publication brochure was supported by Grant Number 1-SP1AH000021 from the Office of Adolescent Health (OAH), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of OAH or the Department.

Contact Information

NM GRADS
P. O. Box 1884
(310 Fisher Avenue)
Socorro, NM 87801
575-835-1785
nmgrads@nmgrads.org

GRADS Co-Director:
Sally Kosnick
skosnick@nmgrads.org

Co-Director/Assoc. Dir. of Finance:
Jeanne Johnston
jjohnston@nmgrads.org

Office Manager
Anna Mae Fleming
afleming@nmgrads.org

GRADS PLUS Coordinator
Marylouise Kuti
mkuti@nmgrads.org

GRADS Sustainability Coordinator
Jeanine Fischer
jfi scher@nmgrads.org

Like us on Facebook        Follow us on the NM GRADS Blog and Twitter

The NM GRADS System is funded by the NM Legislature and through a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Adolescent Health Pregnancy Assistance Funded Grant, administered and overseen by the NM Public Education Department.

Like us on Facebook        Follow us on the NM GRADS Blog and Twitter

The NM GRADS System began as an in-school program for teenage parents and has since added on-site Child Development Centers, Career Readiness, Youth Leadership, and Fatherhood.

MISSION STATEMENT

The NM GRADS System facilitates graduation and the pursuit of higher education and/or employment, ensures appropriate case management for healthy babies and families, promotes healthy multi-generational parenting skills, fosters leadership, self-sufficiency and good citizenship as contributing members of society, and educates students on ways to reduce risk-taking behaviors for their entire family. GRADS works to remove barriers to ensure successful students who are also successful parents.

GRADS Key Elements

Through Title IX, GRADS students are insured a safe supported class with a highly qualified teacher, a case manager and a fatherhood mentor to help students reach goals in education, family planning and parenting, as well as healthy relationships. In addition, instruction in financial literacy, physical, mental and reproductive health care, along with inter-personal skill building and balancing multi-generational roles are also integrated in the goals of the program. The students are supported with safe on site CYFD licensed Child Development Centers to further assist the pursuit of their education, positive parenting and economic stability objectives.

SYSTEM GOALS

Through our continued partnership with the NMPED, GRADS students have enhanced support in the areas of Case Management specifically in Young Father Support, College & Career Readiness, Early Childhood & Infant Mental Health and Intervention. Additionally local and statewide collaborations have been developed to increase access to resources and services for the young families we serve.

What is NM GRADS?

The state-wide system began as an in-school program for teenage parents and has since added on-site Child Development Centers, Career Readiness, Youth Leadership, and Fatherhood.

MISSION STATEMENT

The NM GRADS System facilitates graduation and the pursuit of higher education and/or employment, ensures appropriate case management for healthy babies and families, promotes healthy multi-generational parenting skills, fosters leadership, self-sufficiency and good citizenship as contributing members of society, and educates students on ways to reduce risk-taking behaviors for their entire family. GRADS works to remove barriers to ensure successful students who are also successful parents.

GRADS Key Elements

Through Title IX, GRADS students are insured a safe supported class with a highly qualified teacher, a case manager and a fatherhood mentor to help students reach goals in education, family planning and parenting, as well as healthy relationships. In addition, instruction in financial literacy, physical, mental and reproductive health care, along with inter-personal skill building and balancing multi-generational roles are also integrated in the goals of the program. The students are supported with safe on site CYFD licensed Child Development Centers to further assist the pursuit of their education, positive parenting and economic stability objectives.

SYSTEM GOALS

Through our continued partnership with the NMPED, GRADS students have enhanced support in the areas of Case Management specifically in Young Father Support, College & Career Readiness, Early Childhood & Infant Mental Health and Intervention. Additionally local and statewide collaborations have been developed to increase access to resources and services for the young families we serve.

What is NM GRADS?

The state-wide system began as an in-school program for teenage parents and has since added on-site Child Development Centers, Career Readiness, Youth Leadership, and Fatherhood.

MISSION STATEMENT

The NM GRADS System facilitates graduation and the pursuit of higher education and/or employment, ensures appropriate case management for healthy babies and families, promotes healthy multi-generational parenting skills, fosters leadership, self-sufficiency and good citizenship as contributing members of society, and educates students on ways to reduce risk-taking behaviors for their entire family. GRADS works to remove barriers to ensure successful students who are also successful parents.

GRADS Key Elements

Through Title IX, GRADS students are insured a safe supported class with a highly qualified teacher, a case manager and a fatherhood mentor to help students reach goals in education, family planning and parenting, as well as healthy relationships. In addition, instruction in financial literacy, physical, mental and reproductive health care, along with inter-personal skill building and balancing multi-generational roles are also integrated in the goals of the program. The students are supported with safe on site CYFD licensed Child Development Centers to further assist the pursuit of their education, positive parenting and economic stability objectives.

SYSTEM GOALS

Through our continued partnership with the NMPED, GRADS students have enhanced support in the areas of Case Management specifically in Young Father Support, College & Career Readiness, Early Childhood & Infant Mental Health and Intervention. Additionally local and statewide collaborations have been developed to increase access to resources and services for the young families we serve.

What is NM GRADS?

The state-wide system began as an in-school program for teenage parents and has since added on-site Child Development Centers, Career Readiness, Youth Leadership, and Fatherhood.

MISSION STATEMENT

The NM GRADS System facilitates graduation and the pursuit of higher education and/or employment, ensures appropriate case management for healthy babies and families, promotes healthy multi-generational parenting skills, fosters leadership, self-sufficiency and good citizenship as contributing members of society, and educates students on ways to reduce risk-taking behaviors for their entire family. GRADS works to remove barriers to ensure successful students who are also successful parents.

GRADS Key Elements

Through Title IX, GRADS students are insured a safe supported class with a highly qualified teacher, a case manager and a fatherhood mentor to help students reach goals in education, family planning and parenting, as well as healthy relationships. In addition, instruction in financial literacy, physical, mental and reproductive health care, along with inter-personal skill building and balancing multi-generational roles are also integrated in the goals of the program. The students are supported with safe on site CYFD licensed Child Development Centers to further assist the pursuit of their education, positive parenting and economic stability objectives.

SYSTEM GOALS

Through our continued partnership with the NMPED, GRADS students have enhanced support in the areas of Case Management specifically in Young Father Support, College & Career Readiness, Early Childhood & Infant Mental Health and Intervention. Additionally local and statewide collaborations have been developed to increase access to resources and services for the young families we serve.

What is NM GRADS?

The state-wide system began as an in-school program for teenage parents and has since added on-site Child Development Centers, Career Readiness, Youth Leadership, and Fatherhood.

MISSION STATEMENT

The NM GRADS System facilitates graduation and the pursuit of higher education and/or employment, ensures appropriate case management for healthy babies and families, promotes healthy multi-generational parenting skills, fosters leadership, self-sufficiency and good citizenship as contributing members of society, and educates students on ways to reduce risk-taking behaviors for their entire family. GRADS works to remove barriers to ensure successful students who are also successful parents.

GRADS Key Elements

Through Title IX, GRADS students are insured a safe supported class with a highly qualified teacher, a case manager and a fatherhood mentor to help students reach goals in education, family planning and parenting, as well as healthy relationships. In addition, instruction in financial literacy, physical, mental and reproductive health care, along with inter-personal skill building and balancing multi-generational roles are also integrated in the goals of the program. The students are supported with safe on site CYFD licensed Child Development Centers to further assist the pursuit of their education, positive parenting and economic stability objectives.

SYSTEM GOALS

Through our continued partnership with the NMPED, GRADS students have enhanced support in the areas of Case Management specifically in Young Father Support, College & Career Readiness, Early Childhood & Infant Mental Health and Intervention. Additionally local and statewide collaborations have been developed to increase access to resources and services for the young families we serve.

What is NM GRADS?

The state-wide system began as an in-school program for teenage parents and has since added on-site Child Development Centers, Career Readiness, Youth Leadership, and Fatherhood.

MISSION STATEMENT

The NM GRADS System facilitates graduation and the pursuit of higher education and/or employment, ensures appropriate case management for healthy babies and families, promotes healthy multi-generational parenting skills, fosters leadership, self-sufficiency and good citizenship as contributing members of society, and educates students on ways to reduce risk-taking behaviors for their entire family. GRADS works to remove barriers to ensure successful students who are also successful parents.

GRADS Key Elements

Through Title IX, GRADS students are insured a safe supported class with a highly qualified teacher, a case manager and a fatherhood mentor to help students reach goals in education, family planning and parenting, as well as healthy relationships. In addition, instruction in financial literacy, physical, mental and reproductive health care, along with inter-personal skill building and balancing multi-generational roles are also integrated in the goals of the program. The students are supported with safe on site CYFD licensed Child Development Centers to further assist the pursuit of their education, positive parenting and economic stability objectives.

SYSTEM GOALS

Through our continued partnership with the NMPED, GRADS students have enhanced support in the areas of Case Management specifically in Young Father Support, College & Career Readiness, Early Childhood & Infant Mental Health and Intervention. Additionally local and statewide collaborations have been developed to increase access to resources and services for the young families we serve.