

KENTUCKY SCHOOL UPDATES

FAMILY RESOURCE/YOUTH SERVICES CENTERS

THE BASICS OF THE LAW

- Kentucky law provides **family resource and youth services centers** to help students and their families who face social, economic, or health barriers that may interfere with learning. Schools are eligible to apply for center grants, if at least one-fifth of the students qualify for free- and/or reduced-price lunch. Grants are provided through the state Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Family resource centers serve elementary schools; youth services centers serve middle and high schools. Most alternative schools or preschools that stand alone (separate from other schools) are paired with an eligible school.
- The coordinators at the centers identify problems and link students and families to local resources that help students be more ready to learn.
- By law, family resource centers are required to address at least these services:
 - ✓ full-time preschool child care for children two and three years of age
 - ✓ after-school child care for children four through twelve
 - ✓ families-in-training to support expectant families and those with infants and young children
 - ✓ parent and child education
 - ✓ support and training for child care providers
 - ✓ health services or referrals
- Youth services centers must address:
 - ✓ referrals to health and social services
 - ✓ employment counseling, training, and placement
 - ✓ summer and part-time job development
 - ✓ drug and alcohol abuse counseling
 - ✓ family crisis and mental health counseling
- Resource centers are guided by **local advisory councils**, which must include parents representative of the school population, service providers, and educators. One-third of the members must be parents and no more than one-third can be educators. At least two students serve on councils for youth services centers.
- The Cabinet for Health and Family Services oversees the Division of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers. This includes the Central Office staff along with ten Regional Program Managers who provide technical assistance and training to center staff and school districts. Regional staff are housed in sites across the state. For more information visit regarding the regional staff please their Web site.

RESULTS

- As of June 2006, there were 778 **centers** serving 1,137 **schools**. Of these centers, 397 are family resource centers serving elementary schools, 234 are youth services centers serving middle and high schools and 147 are combined centers serving all grades. It is expected that there will be 800 centers serving 1,162 schools in 2006-07.
- The budget for family resource and youth services centers was increased to \$54.4 million in 2006-07 and \$57.2 million in 2007-08, an increase from the \$51.9 million budgeted in 2005-06. This is to provide an increase in per pupil funding for the first time in four years as well as funds to serve additional schools. It is anticipated that at least 54 additional schools will receive funding for center services by July 1, 2007.
- Previous research has shown that schools with family resource and youth services centers have increased parental involvement, increased school readiness, decreased barriers to learning and increased teacher satisfaction.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- ★ **Volunteer** to participate on a Family Resource or Youth Services Center Advisory Council.
- ★ **Suggest that a Parents and Teachers Talking Together (PT3)** meeting be conducted through your center. This is a way resource centers can involve parents and determine more about school needs. Contact the Prichard Committee for more information at (800) 928-2111.
- ★ **Ask** members of your school-based decision making council how they coordinate with your center's advisory council. Suggest that the school council, resource center advisory council, and PTA board meet together once or twice a year to coordinate plans and activities.
- ★ **Volunteer** at your center. See what needs you, your church, or other organizations can meet.
- ★ **Write** to your elected officials with examples of successes or problems with Family Resource and Youth Services Centers. See chapter on Parent Involvement for information on contacting state legislators.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

- **Cabinet for Health and Family Services**, Division of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers, (502) 564-4986, or visit the Web site at www.chfs.ky.gov/dhss/frysc/.
- **Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence**, P.O. Box 1658, Lexington, KY 40588-1658; (859) 233-9849 or (800) 928-2111; e-mail: admin@prichardcommittee.org or visit the Web site at <http://www.prichardcommittee.org/>.