

New Heights Program Outcomes SY 11-12, SY 12-13

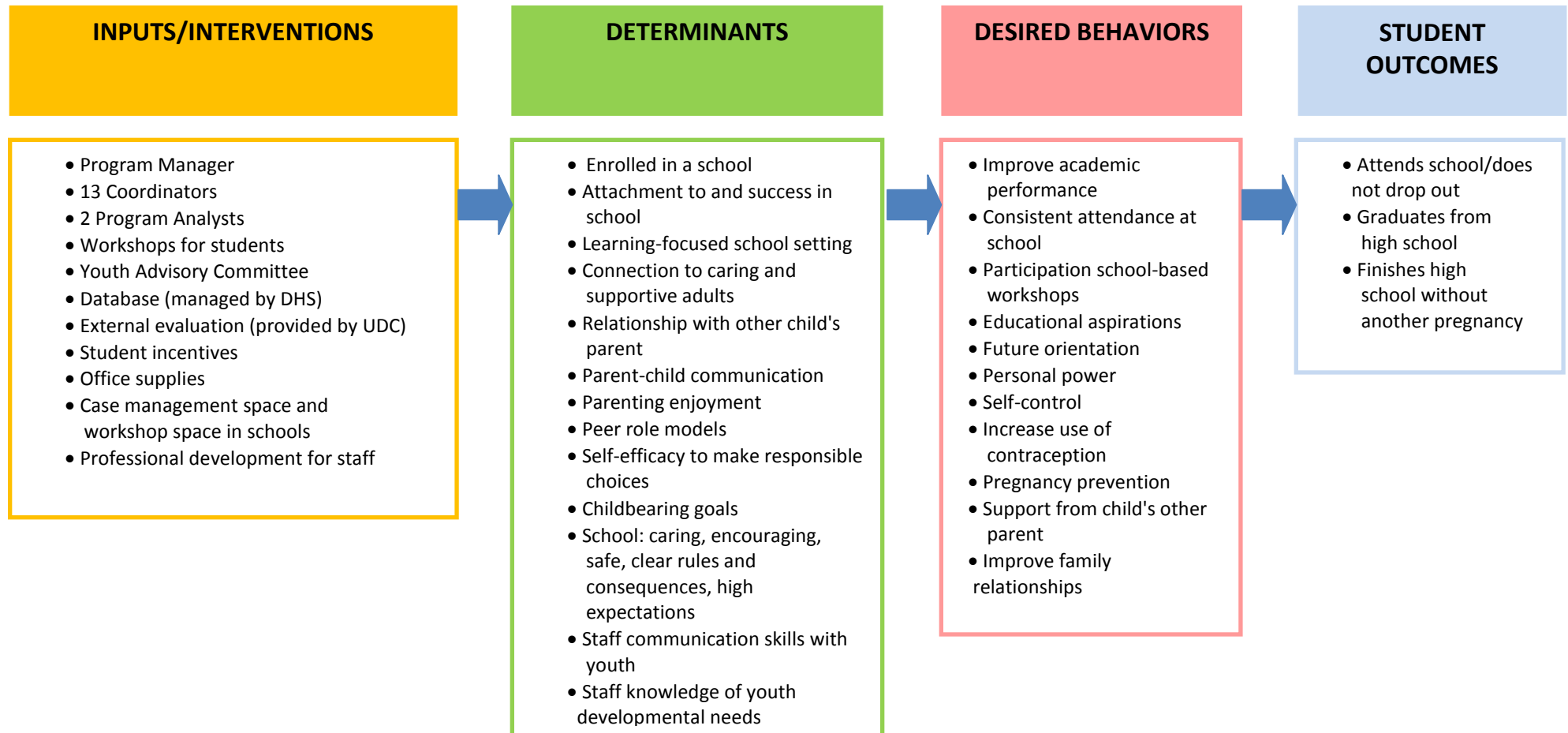
Background

New Heights is a school-based model for engaging and supporting expectant and parenting students in 15 DC high schools -- 13 DCPS and two charters -- to help students remain in school until graduation and prevent subsequent pregnancies before graduation. For more than ten years, New Heights programs at Anacostia High School and Cardozo High School have been supported by the Department of Human Services (DHS) using federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds. DCPS currently receives \$400,000 annually for these two schools. As a qualifying state agency, DHS applied for and was awarded a three-year grant by the U.S. Health and Human Services Office of Adolescent Health (HHS-OAH), at \$1.5 million for each year. The funds supported DCPS's and the Student Support Center's New Heights programs at the 13 additional high schools, the development of a database by the Office of the Chief Technology Officer, the evaluation of the program and development of a public awareness campaign by the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), and the administration of the grant and database maintenance by DHS. This grant concluded August 31, 2013, and is now operating under a six month no-cost extension.

Federal Compliance with Title IX

The New Heights program helps DCPS meet its Title IX obligations for expectant and parenting students. According to the National Women's Law Center (NWLC) (*Title IX Protections for Pregnant and Parenting Students, 2012*), "Schools that receive federal funds must not discriminate against students on the basis of sex, including a student's pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination, or recovery therefrom. Schools must provide equal access to school programs and extracurricular activities to students who might be, are, or have been pregnant. Schools are required to treat pregnant and parenting students the same way they treat other students who are similarly able or unable to participate in school activities." A Coordinator is placed in each of the 13 DCPS high schools to implement the New Heights program. Coordinators educate school staff members (both individually and at school professional development days/staff meetings) regarding Title IX requirements related to expectant and parenting students.

DCPS NEW HEIGHTS LOGIC MODEL



Program Outcomes

Based on the program logic model, indicators of success are serving expectant and parenting students so that they remain in school until graduation, and do so without a subsequent pregnancy. Data outcomes below show that during SY 11-12 and SY 12-13, DCPS' New Heights program has demonstrated positive outcomes.

Below is a table that indicates the number of students served by the program by site per school year, as well as the number of repeat pregnancies per site, per school year. The data show that students who remain in the program continuously have a lower number of repeat pregnancies compared to students who withdraw and then re-enroll in the program at a later point. Overall, the repeat pregnancy rate for New Heights is 1.24% in SY 11-12 and 0.99% in SY 12-13; both are lower than the repeat teenage pregnancy rate in DC and nationally, which are 16% and 18%, respectively (*National Vital Statistics System, CDC, 2010*).

School Name	Students served		Repeat pregnancy number: students with continuous enrollment		Repeat pregnancy number: students without continuous enrollment	
	SY 11-12	SY 12-13	SY 11-12	SY 12-13	SY 11-12	SY 12-13
New Heights I						
Anacostia	100	118	1	1	2	1
Cardozo	39	46	0	0	2	1
New Heights II						
Ballou	35	48	0	0	0	0
Ballou STAY	95	171	0	0	1	1
Columbia Heights Education Campus	45	36	0	1	1	1
Coolidge	20	19	0	0	0	0
Dunbar	29	40	0	0	0	0
Luke C Moore	73	77	0	0	0	0
Roosevelt	21	30	0	0	0	1
Spingarn STAY	32	24	0	0	0	0
Washington Met	26	30	0	0	0	0
Wilson	13	23	0	0	0	0
Woodson	37	39	0	0	0	0
Total NH1	139	164	1	1	4	2
Total NH2	426	537	0	1	2	3
Total	565	701	1	2	6	5

Below is a table indicating the ADA and ISA, and average credits earned per site per school year. As expected, with the physical and parenting challenges for this student population, ADA and ISA are not as high as those for the non-New Heights students at the same 13 DCPS high schools. However, the average number of credits earned are similar SY 11-12 and higher in SY 12-13 for New Heights-enrolled students than the non-New Heights students at the same 13 DCPS high schools. The NWLC (*A Pregnancy Test for Schools, 2012*) found that pregnancy and family responsibilities significantly influence students' ability to stay in school. According to the NWLC report, factors such as competing demands of their work life and child care issues affect students' attendance. Transportation may be an issue, as students often have to travel far to access a suitable child care center for their child. Additionally, expectant and parenting students around the country are sometimes faced with punitive absence policies, inaccessible homebound instruction, and a general environment of discouragement at their school. Expectant and parenting students are at a higher risk for sexual harassment and bullying, and often face homelessness at a higher rate than their peers.

School Name	Average ISA		Average ADA		Average credits accumulated	
	SY 11-12	SY 12-13	SY 11-12	SY 12-13	SY 11-12	SY 12-13
New Heights I						
Anacostia	59%	63%	66%	72%	14.13	16.06
Cardozo	68%	61%	73%	78%	13.73	14.35
New Heights II						
Ballou	59%	52%	68%	69%	15.15	14.64
Ballou STAY	61%	71%	68%	79%	12.00	12.37
Columbia Heights Education Campus	86%	80%	96%	97%	14.71	19.63
Coolidge	71%	71%	83%	84%	16.74	16.40
Dunbar	67%	70%	74%	80%	15.29	21.45
Luke Moore	62%	67%	75%	80%	17.29	18.40
Roosevelt	56%	52%	61%	72%	14.63	18.68
Spingarn STAY	51%	66%	62%	74%	14.95	15.88
Washington Metropolitan	55%	59%	65%	74%	15.32	19.16
Wilson	79%	70%	81%	76%	16.03	17.26
Woodson	67%	64%	81%	81%	12.62	16.76
Total for New Heights	63%	65%	72%	77%	14.39	15.93
Non-New Heights students	80%	82%	85%	87%	14.48	14.62

Another key indicator of success is whether the New Heights program helps expectant and parenting students remain in school. The NWLC (*When Girls Don't Graduate, 2007*) indicates, "When asked, one-quarter to one-third of female dropouts say that pregnancy or becoming a parent played a role in their decision to drop out. In a recent survey sponsored by the Gates Foundation, 33% of female dropouts reported that becoming a parent played a major role in their decision to leave school. In another study, close to 27% of tenth to twelfth grade female dropouts said that pregnancy was one of their reasons for leaving, making it the third most cited behind not liking school and failing in school. Surveys of pregnant and parenting students have reported comparable findings." The New Heights data show the following positive results:

- 85% of students enrolled in New Heights remained in school during SY 11-12, as compared to 84% of non-New Heights students in the same 13 high schools.
- 75% of students enrolled in New Heights remained in school during SY 12-13, as compared to 82% of non-New Heights students in the same 13 high schools.
- Of those students in New Heights who withdrew from school in SY 11-12, 56% returned in SY 12-13; and of those students who returned, 29% remained throughout the entire SY 12-13 school year.

In addition to quantitative findings, the qualitative data collected from students regarding their personal stories indicate that the program has played a significant role in their academic and personal accomplishments. Attached is a document of with a few of those stories.