

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL AGE FAMILIES EDUCATION (CAL-SAFE) PROGRAM

FACT SHEET

The Cal-SAFE Program is a comprehensive, integrated, community-linked, school-based program designed to improve the educational outcomes, increase the availability of support services for expectant and/or parenting students (both females and males), and provide child care and development services to their child(ren) so that they may achieve program goals. The program provides an opportunity for funded local educational agencies (LEAs) throughout California to access sufficient resources to support a seamless, cost-effective service delivery system for students from point of entry into the program until graduation.

CURRENT STATUS: As of June 2005, Cal-SAFE served approximately 36,000 students and 23,000 children located in 44 of the state's 58 counties. For fiscal year 2007-08, 148 LEAs are approved to provide Cal-SAFE services in over 590 school sites. The total appropriation in the annual budget for fiscal year 2007-08 for Cal-SAFE local assistance is \$58,395,000. Of the total budget, Cal-SAFE child care and development services is \$26,999,000, Cal-SAFE academic and supportive services is \$16,951,000, and Cal-SAFE services for non-converting county offices of education is \$14,445,000.

HISTORY: Senate Bill 1064 (Chapter 1078, Statutes of 1998) established the Cal-SAFE Program. Cal-SAFE became operational July 1, 2000, based on and incorporating many elements of the former Pregnant Minor Program (PMP), School Age Parenting and Infant Development (SAPID) Program, and the Pregnant and Lactating Students (PALS) Program.

GOALS: Program goals for students include graduation from high school, transition into post-secondary education or the world of work, decreased dependency on welfare aid, improved parenting skills, and fewer repeat births to teen mothers. Goals for their children include no low birth weight babies, health screening and immunizations, and enhanced school readiness.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS: Requirements include having a school board approved policy supporting the program, participating in development of a county service coordination plan, providing an education program on an open entry/open exit basis in a supportive and accommodating learning environment, implementing an intake procedure to determine support service needs, providing meal supplements to pregnant and lactating students, providing a parenting education/life skills class, providing a quality child care and development program, providing appropriate staff development and community outreach, complying with Title IX, and participating in the program evaluation.

STUDENT/CHILD ELIGIBILITY: Female and male students age 18 and younger who have not graduated from high school may voluntarily enroll in Cal-SAFE if they are an expectant parent, a custodial parent, or a parent taking an active role in the care and supervision of their child. If a student is continuously enrolled in the program and has not graduated before reaching age 19, the student may be enrolled for one additional semester. An eligible student with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is eligible as long as there is an active IEP. While the teen parents are enrolled in Cal-SAFE, their children are eligible for services until the age of five years or entry into kindergarten.

SUPPORT SERVICES FOR STUDENTS: A support services allowance for each unit of average daily attendance generated by students having completed the intake process provides necessary services to support them to academically achieve and meet program goals. Allowable services include, but are not limited to, case management, transportation, perinatal education and care, parenting education and life skills instruction, meal supplements, tutoring, and counseling.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT: The child care site is located on or near the school site and meets health and safety requirements as specified in the *California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22*. The developmental profile maintained for each child is utilized to design a program that meets the child's developmental needs. Reimbursement for the child care and development program is the same as for general child care and development services. Funding generated by the children voluntarily enrolled in Cal-SAFE is restricted to the provision of services to enrolled children.

PROGRAM EVALUATION: *The California School Age Families Education (Cal-SAFE) Program: A Report to the Legislature*, completed by Branagh Information Group in 2005, showed the program touched the lives of approximately 30,000 expectant and/or parenting students and 20,000 of their children.

Over 75 percent of the students left the Cal-SAFE Program having successfully completed their high school education. Over 65 percent of the exiting students indicated that they would pursue further education or employment. Most planned to enroll in a local community college.

Ninety-four percent of the children enrolled in child care sponsored by the Cal-SAFE Program were up-to-date on their immunization schedules. This percentage substantially exceeds the immunization rates for children 19 to 35 months nationally (82 percent) and in California (81 percent). Over 75 percent of the children of Cal-SAFE students attended a child care center sponsored by the Cal-SAFE Program and received programming and services based on their assessed developmental needs.

The report can be found at the Cal-SAFE Web site listed below.

If you have questions or need additional program information, contact information is available at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/cg/pp/> or call the School Health Connections and Healthy Start Office, Cal-SAFE Program at (916) 319-0914.