

NYC Dads - 2013 Fatherhood Initiative Progress Report

NYC Department of Education – Living for the Young Family through Education (DOE/LYFE)

Progress during 2012 - 2013

2012	2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held program-wide professional development sessions on engaging and empowering young fathers and distributed “father friendly” posters program-wide. • Hosted “Dads Take Your Child To School Day” in September 2011 for the first time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 48 fathers attended across sites ○ 20 were first-time visitors to the program • A workgroup composed of 4 LYFE social workers utilized strategies to engage and involve fathers in the LYFE program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ By April 2012, 25 fathers were involved in the program, and 40 fathers had been engaged, compared to only 11 fathers before the workgroup’s launch. • Launched an Engaging Father’s Workgroup comprised of LYFE social workers. Reviewed responsible fatherhood curriculae and selected the MDRC Responsible Fatherhood Curriculum to be used to train all LYFE staff. • Referred student fathers to the CUNY Fatherhood Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LYFE website was launched with photos of LYFE fathers included on the LYFE website: LYFENYC.ORG. Additionally, highlights of student fathers’ involvement within the LYFE classroom were included on the LYFE blog. • Hosted “Dads Take your Child to School Day” in September 2012 across all 36 LYFE sites. Highlighted the event on the LYFE website to promote inclusivity of fathers within the program. Over 20 fathers participated in the event. • Through continued site-based and program-wide professional development and accountability efforts, LYFE shifted its reputation from a teenage mother program to a student-parent program inclusive of fathers. • LYFE researched curricula and concluded that the ‘Parenting Journey’ curriculum would best support fathers in realizing their goals as parents. This curriculum is based on the Strengthening Families approach, which promotes five protective factors: building parental resilience, making social connections, meeting concrete needs, acquiring knowledge of child development, and supporting social/emotional competence of children. In March 2014, a small group of social workers will be trained in the use of the ‘Parenting Journey’ curriculum. Social workers will begin using the ‘Parenting Journey’ in group sessions with student parent in late March and determine how effective the curriculum is in meeting fathers’ parenting needs. • Began capturing all fathers listed at enrollment to accurately measure father involvement. • LYFE continued making referrals to the CUNY Fatherhood Academy to support fathers’ education and employment needs.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In May 2013 LYFE student fathers were nominated for the LYFE academic achievement, family support, and inspiration awards by LYFE social workers in preparation for the “Let LYFE Inspire You” Student Parent Graduate Recognition Ceremony. A student father was awarded the LYFE Inspiration Award for his resilience, commitment to his young family and dedication to completing his GED with the CUNY Fatherhood program.• Launched the LYFE Mentoring program pilot for student fathers based on need and identified program indicators (i.e., poor school attendance and program engagement). Mentors are NYC Department of Education employees working to support students’ goals and be of support to them in their transition into parenthood and post-secondary readiness. Specific intended outcomes are to improve student fathers’ attendance and engagement in the LYFE program.

Additional Successes & Best Practices

- As a part of regular service provision, LYFE holds weekly support groups and individual sessions with student fathers enrolled in the program to support their academic, parenting and social-emotional goals.

Please see the [NYC Young Men's Initiative](#) and [NYC DADS](#) websites for additional information on the progress of NYC Dads.