

Transylvania County Schools

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Transylvania County Board of Education

Building Futures Summer Work Program for Students Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Building Futures program?

The Building Futures program was started in 2004 as an effort to reduce our high school dropout rate and increase our graduation rate. The program is grant funded by the regional Workforce Development Board with funds from the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Eligibility for the program requires a low socioeconomic status and a significant barrier to success in school (basic skills deficient, homeless, parenting, court involvement, etc.). The goal of the program is to help students graduate and move successfully into work or post-secondary education.

2. What is the summer employment program and how is it funded?

TCS will receive up to \$27,162 in WIA funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The grant funds were competitive and awarded based on a detailed proposal of employment opportunities for students. TCS will employ students from June 22 through August 13, 2009. Students will work for up to 32 hours per week at \$7.25 per hour. Students will work in various school system sites performing duties such as receptionist, clerical, and facilities maintenance. We hope to place up to four students in positions with two local non-profit agencies who provide services to community youth during the summer.

3. How many students and staff members will be employed?

We will employ at least 11 students this summer. The grant provides an additional month of salary and benefits for one of our Student Advocates to monitor, supervise, and coach the students. Also, one of our Student Advocates is employed twelve months (also grant funded) and will be available to assist with monitoring students in addition to his work on dropout recovery.

4. How does this opportunity fit within the district's larger goal of improving student graduation rates?

Students who meet eligibility criteria will be enrolled automatically in the Building Futures program and will continue to receive mentoring and support from our Student Advocates until they successfully reach graduation. We do not view this opportunity as just a summer employment program.