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## WHY SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS FOR ADOLESCENT PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN?

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### **RATIONALE FOR PARENTS:**

- Schools have the potential to connect with and support adolescent parents before they drop out of school and become alienated from educational goals.
- Later non-school interventions with adolescent parents who have already dropped out of school have only modest effects on increasing social and economic self-sufficiency, while there is new evidence that intervening before they drop out is more effective.<sup>1</sup>
- Research on the LEAP program suggests that stronger positive outcomes are achieved when the intervention is closely tied to schools, that is, by having case managers located in the schools and in-school child care.

### **RATIONALE FOR CHILDREN:**

- Almost half of all poor children were born to an adolescent.
- Poor children have less access to basic services that promote health and development, such as well-child care, developmental screenings, immunizations, and quality child care/development experiences. Thus, they are at greater risk of poor health and development and of being less well prepared for school success.
- School-based programs for adolescent parents offer opportunities to link their children with basic health and child development services and to support good parenting practices.

*<sup>1</sup>For example, although New Chance had significant effects on GED receipt, there were no impacts on the likelihood of moving from welfare into the job market or on the timing or frequency of repeat pregnancies. LEAP showed significant effects on receipt of both high school diplomas and GED certificates, but the program was most successful for participants who were served through a school-based program.*