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## WHAT GENERAL LESSONS HAVE BEEN LEARNED FROM THE FIELD ABOUT IMPLEMENTING COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS FOR ADOLESCENT PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN?

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- Adolescent parents are often invisible — in the community and to the schools — unless they encounter the welfare system.
- Schools represent a valuable option for intervening early with both young parents and their children.
- Few programs have consciously defined a set of short- and long term outcomes and developed a strategy to achieve those outcomes. Thus, many programs lack necessary services and supports critical to teen parent and child outcomes, and few collect sufficient data on services and outcomes to assess their effectiveness and strengthen their programs.
- While few programs are comprehensive, there are some that provide a broad range of services, generally to adolescent parents and sometimes to their children as well.
- Many programs have devised creative strategies for overcoming barriers to implementing particular services.
- No single program setting or set of services is likely to be able to meet the individual needs and goals of all teen parents and their children.
- Developing a comprehensive strategy requires cooperation and collaboration among a variety of community organizations, including the schools.

*For more details, see "School-Based Programs for Adolescent Parents and Their Young Children: Overcoming Barriers and Challenges to Implementing Comprehensive School-Based Services," C. L. Sipe and S. T. Batten, Bala Cynwyd, PA: CAPD, October 1994.*