

Sistas on the Rise Recommends:

☀ ...the transformation of the P School Program into a **full-length alternative school** for pregnant and parenting students, which would address problems arising in the transition process and create a stable and supportive academic environment, thus reducing the number of young mothers that drop out of high school in New York City.

☀ ...a formal P School **policy book** that can be referred to by all students and staff. In addition a course booklet, delineating the classes offered at the P Schools and the school's credit system should be readily available for all current and potential students.

☀ ...**academic curriculum** in P Schools be maintained at a level consistent with other City schools to ensure a quality education and smooth transitions between schools, as well as providing adequate preparation for required City and State exams.

☀ ...a **strong parenting curriculum** that is consistent in all four schools, teaching students necessary health, pregnancy, and parenting information to promote the wellbeing of themselves and their children.

☀ ...that **support from school staff** be received by pregnant and parenting students particularly during transition periods in and out of the P School and while on maternity leave.

☀ ...**mandatory home visits** by school social workers and nurses during Code 45 maternity leave, as promised in the Department of Education's P School guide.

☀ ...**expansion of the Lyfe Center Program** to meet the needs of more students, the addition of more slots throughout the academic year, more than one site per borough in the summer, and the establishment of a middle school Lyfe Center to meet the childcare needs of younger student mothers.

Methodology



This research project was conducted by members of Sistas on the Rise in partnership with the Community Development Project of the Urban Justice Center. In the fall of 2004, a 38-question survey was developed, which was administered by Sistas on the Rise members to 123 current students in all four P Schools and 55 former students. Following the survey, three focus groups were conducted with current students from the Martha Nielson School, the Mid-Manhattan P School, and Ida B. Wells. Further one-on-one interviews were also conducted with former students. The findings outlined in this brochure are only a small sample of the results of this extensive research process.



Pregnant and Parenting School Survey Results

What is Sistas on the Rise?

Sistas on the Rise is a space for young women of color ages 13-21 to take ownership and power over their lives and to create a healthy community by developing their leadership skills and organizing without being marginalized. We realize that many young women who become pregnant drop-out of existing youth programs because they do not receive the support necessary for their continued participation.

Sistas on the Rise is a space where young mothers and women of color raise consciousness, build sisterhood and take action for social change. We provide workshops, activities and trips that develop leadership skills and teach our young women to be critical and active members of the community.

Interested in becoming more involved with Sistas on the Rise?

If you are interested in volunteering, want to learn more about the Education Campaign or Sistas on the Rise, or would like to become a member and participate in more of our programs, campaigns and activities, please contact us!

We are located at:
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