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Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent or At-Risk

- **No Child Left Behind Act of 2001**
  - **Title I**— Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged
    - **Part D**— Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent or At-Risk

Funding Program Overview

Detailed information: http://www.ed.gov/21stcclc

Purpose and Background

Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk are designed to accomplish three broad goals:

1. To improve educational services for children and youth in local and State institutions for neglected or delinquent youth so that they have the same opportunity to meet challenging State academic content and achievement standards expected of all children in the State;
2. To provide such children and youth with the services needed to make a successful transition from institutionalization to further schooling or employment; and
3. To prevent at-risk youth from dropping out of school and to provide dropouts and those returning from correctional facilities or institutions for neglected or delinquent children and youth with a support system to ensure their continued education.

Funding and Eligibility

(Federal Appropriation Fiscal Year 2004: $48.395 million)

Funds flow to each state educational agency based on a formula that factors in the number of children and youth served under the program, among other things. State agencies seeking local funding must write a plan of service that complies with the State plan and apply directly to the State educational agency. Funds can be spent for designated purposes such as providing participants with the knowledge and skills needed to make a successful transition to secondary school completion, vocational or technical training, further education or employment.

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Alignment of Choices CD Edition to Requirements of Title I-D

Overview: Comprehensive and high-quality information

Choices CD Edition is an interactive program that helps high school students focus on their academic career today and make plans for a smooth transition to a variety of post-secondary education and career options. Choices is comprehensive, accurate and up to date. The program motivates and engages students through interactive activities for:

- Self-assessment of interests (English and Spanish) and work values;
- Career exploration;
- Post-secondary education exploration;
- Four-year high school course planning;
- Career and education portfolio building; and
- Financial aid and scholarship resources and application.

Choices provides a seamless connection to thousands of college websites, America's Job Bank, state job banks, scholarship databases and other high-quality career sites. Students can apply to colleges online. Parents can complete college financial need forms and use tools to better understand the process of financing college costs.

Choices connects to more than 200 online career videos. They bring job information to life through real-world interviews with workers in the field. The videos show workers in action, giving a first-hand sense of what a career is really like. Students learn about required education/training and career skills, work activities, job outlook and earnings.

Overview: Academic Integration

Choices also includes creative, outcome-based solutions for teaching established curricula. An easy-to-use system of lessons are designed to integrate career development concepts into the core academics. Many have an optional technology component and all have copy-ready worksheets. They are an excellent way to enrich academic learning.

Overview: Accountability

The OnTrack accountability system provides counselors and administrators with data about Choices assessment results and progress with education and career planning for individual students or groups of students. OnTrack accountability data can be imported into applications such as Excel for further analysis and consolidation. Schools can also send OnTrack student information to parents and guardians quickly and easily, promoting parental involvement.

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Authorized Activities

Each eligible entity that receives an award under this part may use the funds to carry out an array of activities that advance student academic achievement and support the student's completion of secondary school and transition to vocational technical training, further education or employment. *Choices* content and processes align most closely with the activities described below.

Subpart 1 – State Agency Programs
SEC. 1415. Use of Funds

(a) Uses (1) (B) — concentrate on providing participants with the knowledge and skills needed to make a successful transition to secondary school completion, vocational technical training, further education or employment.

(a) Uses (2) (B) (iii) — afford such children and youth an opportunity to meet challenging State academic achievement standards.

Choices CD Edition Alignment:

Choices content offers a wealth of opportunities for academic enrichment. For example, students might begin by taking an interest inventory that identifies career clusters and specific occupations of interest to the student. Follow-up reading about key occupations gives students practice in reading comprehension and exposes them to new vocabulary. Graphics and charts give students assistance in comprehension. The occupation reports further validate the importance of academic achievement by highlighting what school subjects relate to the skills required by the occupation. The *Choices* Planner and portfolio invite students to write descriptions of their skills through a guided process, create written education and career plans and practice resume writing.

The very nature of using *Choices* leads students to use many critical thinking skills. They must make decisions and set priorities when they search for occupations, colleges or scholarships. They are given opportunities to compare options. They are encouraged to retrieve, evaluate and manage information. Lesson plans give teachers yet another tool to enhance academic achievement. They blend career development concepts, the use of technology and academic skills into interesting lessons that engage students, build on their own context and motivate learning.

Subpart 1 – State Agency Programs
SEC. 1418. Transition Services

(a) Transition Services
(2) (C) — essential support services to ensure the success of the youth such as—
(i) personal, vocational and technical, and academic counseling;
(ii) placement services designed to place the youth in a university, college or junior college program;
(iii) information about and assistance with obtaining available student financial aid;
(iv) counseling services; and
(v) job placement services.

Subpart 2 – Local Agency Programs
SEC. 1424. Uses of Funds

(4) Special programs to meet the unique academic needs of participating children and youth, including vocational and technical education, special education, career counseling, curriculum-based youth entrepreneurship education and assistance in securing student loans or grants for post-secondary education.

Choices CD Edition Alignment:

Choices can form the framework for solid post-secondary education and career counseling that is outcome-based. *Choices* is a comprehensive, useful and concise tool that guides students through the career and education planning process and gives them immediate results. The program supports academic and career counseling by providing resources for students in the areas of:

- Interest assessment (English and Spanish) and work values assessment;
- Career information (occupation descriptions and education/training requirements);
- Post-secondary education and training (comprehensive, national database with complete search capabilities for two and four-year colleges and technical schools);
- Four-year high school course planning;
- Career and education portfolio building; and
- Financial aid and scholarship research and application.

Choices also provides a seamless connection to thousands of college websites, America's Job Bank and state job banks (for job search and job placement activities), scholarship databases and other high-quality career sites. Students can apply to colleges online. Parents can complete college financial need forms and use tools to better understand the process of financing college costs.

The *Choices* Planner and portfolio support student documentation of their employability skills, goal setting, the development of four-year high school course plans and transition planning for post-secondary options. There are also activities that support job placement services, such as resume writing, job interview preparation and job search. The Planner and portfolio can provide an ongoing record of student plans and progress.

Choices comes with extensive professional resources for counseling program implementation and a variety of counselor training opportunities to maximize the use of *Choices*.

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Subpart 2 – Local Agency Programs
SEC. 1425. Accountability

(1) Reduce or terminate funding for projects under this subpart if a local educational agency does not show progress in reducing dropout rates for male students and for female students over a three-year period.

Choices CD Edition Alignment:

The *OnTrack* accountability system provides teachers, counselors and administrators with a way to review each student's *Choices* assessment results and progress with education and career planning. This tool helps counselors keep track of students' interests and keep them motivated. It is also a good vehicle for communicating information to parents and guardians quickly and easily. *OnTrack* is an excellent tool for keeping students on track to high school graduation.

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