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Funds for Parental Assistance

- **No Child Left Behind Act of 2001**
  - **Title V** — Promoting Informed Parental Choice and Innovative Programs
    - **Part D** — Fund for the Improvement of Education
      - **Subpart 2** — Parental Assistance and Local Family Information Centers

Funding Program Overview

Detailed information: http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg81.html

Purpose and Background
The major purpose of this subpart is to provide leadership, technical assistance and financial support to non-profit organizations and local educational agencies to help them implement successful and effective parental involvement policies, programs and activities that lead to improvements in student academic achievement. The intent is to strengthen partnerships among parents, teachers, principals, administrators and other school personnel in meeting the educational needs of children and furthering their developmental progress.

Funding and Eligibility
(Federal Appropriation Fiscal Year 2004: $41.975 million)

Funds are awarded by the Secretary to non-profit organizations and consortia of such organizations and local educational agencies to establish school-linked or school-based parental information and resource centers that provide comprehensive training, information, and support to:

a) parents of children enrolled in elementary schools and secondary schools;
b) individuals who work with such parents; and
c) entities that carry out parental education and family involvement programs.

Each eligible entity desiring a grant must submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require. At least 50 percent of funds received under this subpart in each fiscal year shall be used to serve areas, both urban and rural, with high concentrations of low-income families.

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Alignment of Choices CD Edition to Requirements of Title V-D-16

Overview: Dynamic Resource to Support Parent Outreach for School Involvement

Choices is an interactive program that can be used to help parents better understand the career development needs of high school students and the importance of educational achievement and planning.

Choices can provide parents with information about their students' interests, work values and basic skills, as well as occupations in which they might have an interest. As parents discuss future educational and career plans with their students, *Choices* can facilitate decision-making by providing information that is comprehensive, accurate and up to date as outlined below:

- Self-assessment of interests (English and Spanish), work values and basic skills;
- Career exploration with information that highlights necessary academic and career skills for hundreds of occupations;
- Post-secondary education exploration;
- Four-year high school course planning;
- Career and education portfolio building; and
- Financial aid and scholarship research 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.

Academic Integration

Choices includes creative, outcome-based solutions for teaching established curricula and supporting remediation efforts with technology. Lessons are designed to integrate career development concepts into the core academics through the use of technology. They support teacher efforts to use technology to enhance academic instruction. The lessons are an excellent way to enrich academic learning and motivate students.

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, thus promoting parental involvement.

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Authorized Activities

SEC. 5564. Uses of Funds

(1) To assist parents in participating effectively in their children's education and to help their children meet State and local standards

Choices CD Edition Alignment:

Schools use *Choices* in a variety of ways to promote meaningful parental involvement. Parental influence is a key factor in student course selection and career choice. *Choices* provides parents with the results of student assessments in the areas of interests, work values and basic skills. *Choices* also contains comprehensive, easy-to-understand information about occupations, including related school subjects, career pathways and the type of education/training required. The combination of assessment results and occupational information offers students and parents a powerful base from which to explore career plans and make decisions.

Choosing and applying to colleges is another key area for parents. *Choices* facilitates the college search with one of the largest (more than 7,000 colleges, technical schools and graduate schools) and most accurate college databases available. Parents and students can explore and compare options quickly and easily. Links directly to college websites further enhance the process. Students and parents can also access online college applications. *Choices* includes the Parent Loan Advisor and thousands of financial aid awards as well.

The interactive *Choices* Planner and portfolio helps students develop and document Individual Education and Career Plans. Through templates and form letters available in *Choices*, schools can easily advise parents of student progress on their plans and changes that might need attention. This is yet another way to use *Choices* to support parental involvement in student education.

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SEC. 5565. Administrative Provisions

(b) Submission of Information

(1) Each organization...shall submit to the Secretary, on an annual basis, information concerning the parental information and resource centers assisted...

Choices CD Edition Alignment:

Choices data can augment information gathered for the center's program evaluation. The *OnTrack* accountability system provides center staff with data about *Choices* assessment results and progress with education and career planning for individuals or groups of students. *OnTrack* accountability data can be imported into applications such as Excel for further analysis and consolidation.

The center can also send *OnTrack* student information to parents and guardians quickly and easily, thus promoting more active involvement and documenting another type of service to parents.

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SEC. 5421. Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Programs
(c) Use of Funds

(2) Requirements

(G) include in-service training appropriate to the activities funded under this Act to teachers, instructional staff and appropriate school personnel…

Choices CD Edition Alignment:

Bridges Transitions, developer of *Choices*, provides extensive services to assist educators in implementing and integrating *Choices* into the academic and technology curricula, as well as school counseling programs.

Customized training focuses on enhancing teacher and counselor technology skills and building an action plan for maximizing the use of *Choices* to support student academic achievement, technology literacy, educational planning and career planning.

The *Choices* software and a variety of excellent websites are used in the hands-on training.

SEC. 5421. Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Programs
(c) Use of Funds

(2) Requirements

(H) involve parents of participating students in the design, implementation and evaluation of the counseling program.

Choices CD Edition Alignment:

Schools can use *Choices* in a variety of ways to promote meaningful parental involvement with the counseling program. Parental influence is a key factor in student course selection and career choice. *Choices* provides parents with the results of student assessments in the areas of interests, work values and basic skills. The combination of assessment results and occupational information offers students and parents a powerful base from which to explore career plans and make decisions.

Choosing and applying to colleges is another key area for parents. *Choices* facilitates the college search with one of the largest (more than 7,000 colleges, technical schools and graduate schools) and most accurate college databases available. Parents and students can explore and compare options quickly and easily. Links directly to college websites further enhance the process. Students and parents can also access online college applications. *Choices* includes the Parent Loan Advisor and thousands of financial aid awards.

The interactive *Choices* Planner and portfolio helps students develop and document Individual Education and Career Plans. Through templates and form letters, schools can easily advise parents of student progress on their plans and changes that might need attention. This is yet another way to use *Choices* to support parental involvement in student education.

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SEC. 5421. Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Programs

(c) Use of Funds

(2) Requirements

(J) evaluate annually the effectiveness and outcomes of the counseling services and activities assisted under this section.

Choices CD Edition Alignment:

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, thus promoting parental involvement.

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