

# Rantoul J.W. Eater Teen REACH

**Teen REACH (Responsibility, Education, Achievement, Caring, and Hope)** is a quality year-round program for youth in grades 6-8 that improves academic outcomes and keeps youth and communities safe. It provides safe environments for youth and a unique, comprehensive array of supports including: academic assistance, life-skills building, mentoring, and job preparation. It fosters future success in school, on the job, and as productive citizens. Our goal is for every youth enrolled to be safe, engaged in learning with a focus on on-time grade promotion and graduating high school with a plan for the future.

- **Education:** When students participate in programs like Teen REACH, they attend school more often, do better in school, and are more likely to graduate.
- **Workforce Development:** The program helps prepare the future workforce by teaching youth 21st Century skills needed in the workplace like handling responsibility, problem-solving skills, and the ability to work in teams.
- **Safety:** Provides a safe haven and help kids avoid risky behaviors during the hours of 3 to 6 p.m., when juvenile crime peaks. Teen Club youth improve anger-management and conflict-resolution skills through the program.

Teen Responsibility, Education, Achievement, Caring, and Hope are the key components of our program. The program is designed for the youth and families enrolled to **actively** participate in the following core service areas;

- **Improving educational performance** which includes time to do homework, tutoring in basic skills and enrichment programs that encourage creativity.
- **Life skills** education which encompasses training and education that promotes the development of healthy lifestyles, and encourages abstinence from risk-taking behaviors in the areas of alcohol and/or substance abuse, criminal activity, violence and sexual activity.
- **Parental involvement** so that parents and guardians have opportunities to meet with staff to discuss their children's activities and to participate in events that strengthen parent/child bonds and community involvement.
- **Recreation, sports, cultural and artistic** activities and arranging safe outlets for youth to try new skills and develop new interests, to build friendships, find their place in a group, and gain developmentally relevant experiences.
- **Adult mentors** who allow opportunities for participants to develop and maintain positive, sustained relationships with adults.
- **Service-Learning** activities that connect classroom lessons with meaningful service to the community. Students build academic skills while strengthening communities through service.

## **Teen REACH Participation Requirements and Parameters:**

- Youth must be in grades 6-8.
- Parent/Guardian and youth must participate in a program orientation/discussion to develop a program plan and determine short-term/long-term goals.

- Youth meets weekly during program hours with assigned mentor to discuss achievements, challenges and provide any other updates towards goals and academic achievement.
- Youth must attend the Club at least 3 times per week (obtaining employment or participating in extra-curricular activities in school count as time in the Club).
- Youth must actively engage in program
- Parent/Guardian must meet with Teen Program Director or Coordinator bi-monthly to discuss progress towards goals.

#### **Addendum for Summer 2020 Programming**

- Parent/Guardian must attend Complete Summer Registration and Summer Orientation.
- Parent/Guardian must complete one Zoom or phone calls with Coordinator per month.
- Virtually: Club member must participate in Zoom calls at least 3 times a week.

Teen REACH (Responsibility, Education, Achievement, Caring, and Hope) is a comprehensive youth development initiative funded by the state of Illinois that provides program services to youth.