

# Heatly News

Issue 7

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## Green Island

### Contact the

### Guidance Office!

Do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Zeppieri with questions in regard to graduation, dropout concerns, GED information or alternatives to high school education.

### GED vs. High School Diploma

It's beginning to become that time of year- the weather is finally warm and homework is the last thing on student's minds. Especially for underclassmen, the idea that another year (or several) is quite daunting and "unrealistic". Some students may consider dropping out of school. However, there are major negative implications that many dropouts were not aware of until it is too late. A child is legally required to stay in school until they complete the school in which they turn 16 years of age. If a student "drops out" (i.e. chooses not to come to school) prior to this age, the parent will be found legally responsible and have harsh consequences.

Salaries, means to support oneself and career options are extremely limited when

an individual only completes their GED. Many students do not realize that the GED is not viewed as comparable to a high school by many employers. Students must wait until



the year their class graduates to take the GED test. Commonly, students believe they will be able to get ahead by taking the test early. Frequently, high school dropouts will have the motivation to take the

required pre-classes for the GED test.

If your child mentions the idea that he/she is considering dropping out of high school, keep the lines of communication open by asking what they would do with their life if they were not in school. Discuss the cost of living, the job they would pursue and a monthly budget. Often, students can not fathom the amount of money necessary to sustain a comfortable lifestyle. Use this time to educate your child while listening to their concerns or difficulties driving this thought. There may be a logical reason for their desire to end school early.

For more information: [http://education-portal.com/articles/A\\_High\\_School\\_Diploma\\_v.](http://education-portal.com/articles/A_High_School_Diploma_v.)

### If Typical High School Isn't For You...

Although many students thrive in a typical classroom setting, there are many who do not. There are alternatives to high school education, often providing motivation and excitement for education through hands learning. The BOCES program offers many programs, including childhood education, cosmetology, auto mechanics, nursing, culinary arts and criminal justice. To be eligible, the

student must successfully pass 10th grade courses. The student leaves the building for part of the day to complete hands-on learning courses at the BOCES center. The school district will pay for this opportunity. It is important to note that if a student drops out and receives their GED, they would need to pay for the BOCES program on their own.

Another alternative to traditional high school classes is the Tech Valley High School program, geared toward students who have a strong interest in math and science. Students in 8th grade can apply for a spot in the program based on a lottery system. For more information on the BOCES Programs, please visit: <http://bocescaertertech.org/index.htm>

Kendell Hardy, LCSW  
School Social Worker  
[khardy@greenisland.org](mailto:khardy@greenisland.org)  
(518) 273-1422 x 2008

Elizabeth Couser  
Social Work Student Intern  
[elizabeth.couser@yahoo.com](mailto:elizabeth.couser@yahoo.com)