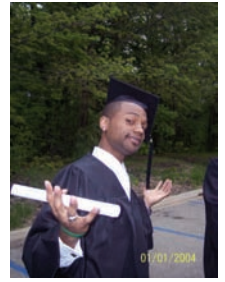




**SUPPORT FULL FUNDING**  
**Truants Alternative Optional Education Program**  
**Regional Safe Schools Program**  
**(TAOEP & RSSP)**



“We study hard. Our teachers hold us to high standards and we are given the opportunity and help we need to succeed. We can finally see ourselves realizing our dreams.”

“We are family. We are in a safe environment. Our teachers really care about us and treat us with respect. We learn to respect others, to cope with our difficulties, learn social skills and work for a better future.”

**We Excel! We Overcome!**

**TAOEP & RSSP are saving lives!** Students come to us with broken lives, ravaged by social, emotional, school and family problems that have rendered them non-functioning in their schools of origin. They are intelligent, talented students and our programs are providing the guidance, caring staff, family atmosphere, social-emotional coaching, structure and educational opportunities they need to excel and go on to lead productive lives.”

**TAOEP & RSSP are saving money!** By keeping youth off the streets and out of the jails our programs have reduced the drop out and truancy rates, increased average daily Attendance. We are increasing the number of functioning, productive adults who pay taxes and vote in this state. Without these programs, more youth will wind up on the streets and in our prisons. Crime rates will go up, costing our state far more money in the long run. The negative effect will be felt statewide.

**Please fully fund TAOEP and RSSP and in a timely manner.** If these programs have to close their doors due to lack of state funding, if all our teachers and leaders in this field lose their jobs:

It will leave a huge gap in experience and expertise of teachers and professionals who know how to work with these kinds of students.

- It will leave students to flounder and become idle, unfocused, angry, and in trouble; populating jails and worse.
- We have promised children an education. We have a broken society.

**Let’s meet this large and glaring need to provide for these students.**

***Student Debbie Reilly, Peoria, Illinois*** “This is not just a school, but a chance to succeed. How do you carelessly toss aside the futures of countless children, who will soon be in charge of your future? Teenagers are capable of voting and going to war, but not saving their last chance at a good life? That is up to you, people like you, people who have ‘pull’; people who can save our school and save our lives.”