OVERVIEW OF PROJECT

I. Program Purpose:

The Cape Cod College Bound project has continued to serve economically and educationally disadvantaged eighth graders from the two middle schools in the Dennis-Yarmouth School System during the 2005-2006 academic year. Participating students are from low-income families and have parents who have not graduated from college. Students chosen to participate have the academic potential for college. During the 2005-2006 school year students participated in an after-school program once a week for 24 weeks and five Saturday sessions that included classroom instruction and educational field trips. Students also took part in an intensive four week summer program that provided instruction in science, math, computer skills and language arts. Students receive a stipend of $25 per month during the school year and $30 per week during the summer session.

II. Staff:

Staffing included a program director with a background in social work and administration and five career counselor/academic tutors. The academic year tutors included an eighth grade science teacher from the Wixon school and a sixth grade teacher and an eighth grade music teacher from the Mattacheese Middle School. The summer tutors included two language arts teachers from Mattacheese as well as the academic year staff. The coordinator served as an overseer for both schools. This provided for consistency for both the students and the teaching team. The variety of interests and talents of the staff members continue to provide an excellent mix to meet the needs and interests of the students.

III. Student Selection:

As in the past, the students were selected for the program based on the criteria in the grant. A list of potentially eligible students was developed in May of 2005 by middle school staff and the College Bound coordinator. In June of 2005 seventh grade students were invited to apply for the program so that they could participate in the July 2005 summer program and then continue throughout the 2005-2006 school year. Eighth graders who had participated in the College Bound program for the academic year 2004-2005 were also eligible to attend the summer program.
IV. Advisory Board:

The Advisory Board met once during the year. The board reviewed and monitored program projects and discussed budget decisions and needs.

V. Saturday Activities:

The Saturday programs for the College Bound program were once again very successful. There were five field trips this year due to budget cuts. In October a Saturday program took place at Cape Cod Community College and focused on group exercises emphasizing leadership, team building and responsibility. Students from the different schools were encouraged to interact and get to know each other, and discussions were held relating to the College Bound program and what they hoped to achieve during the year. A December field trip to a local production of The Nutcracker provided an cultural experience that was completely new to many of our students. The local production company was again kind enough to donate tickets as budget cuts did not allow for our usual theater event. In February the students attended both a men’s and women’s basketball game at UMASS Dartmouth. The students had the opportunity to see the campus and interact with some of the students. In March the student attended a local theater production of Oliver. Bridgewater State College was again generous enough to host us for a day of college tours and information in April. Students talked to admissions and athletic personnel, enjoyed lunch in the student dining area and had a tour of the campus. The Ropes Course trip was repeatedly canceled due to rain and we have a date scheduled for July as this has repeatedly proven to be a wonderful experience for the students.

VII. Summer Program:

The summer program was again held at the Cape Cod Community College for four weeks during the month of July 2005. Classes in computer science, math, language arts and science were given each day. The summer program is hands-on, participatory and informative. The students worked hard and had fun spending time on the college campus and working intensively with each other. Thirteen students participated in the 2005 summer program.

PROCESS OBJECTIVES

1. 20 eligible eighth graders will participate in the project each year. The College Bound project had twenty participating students start the school year. Eleven of these were from Mattacheese Middle School and ten were from the Wixon Middle School. Of the original twenty students, twelve finished the school year with College Bound. Attrition was the result of school changes, busy schedules and a staffing change at Wixon.

2. Individual assessments and IEPs will be completed for all students within 30 days of selection. IEPs were completed for all students by College Bound staff during November 2005.
3. An average participation of 75% for project activities will be achieved. Attendance records are kept for all College Bound activities. Students sign and staff record appropriate participation. College Bound meetings often conflict with sporting activities and other after school events such as yearbook, chorus, play practice, etc. College Bound staff requires that students sign in and let us know if they have an important conflicting event, but they are not penalized for these absences. Average after-school attendance was 83%. Saturday participation averaged 81%. Students are not paid for invalid absences from College Bound events.

4. 90% of parents will rate services as satisfactory or better on a satisfaction survey. Of surveys sent, 40% were returned. All of the responses were satisfactory or above.

5. 90% of school personnel will rate CCCB services as satisfactory or better in a satisfaction survey. At the end of the school year response rate to surveys is very low. Two eighth grade teachers returned surveys and both responses were positive. The feedback from teachers during the school year is in general very positive and cooperative.

OUTCOME OBJECTIVES

1. 75% of students will maintain academic GPA of 2.5 or above (4.0 scale). All of the College Bound students this year had a grade point average of 2.5 or above. 50% were at about 2.5 and the other 50% were above.

2. 75% of students will continue CCCB participation through transition to 9th grade. All College Bound students completed the eighth grade.

3. 70% of students will continue schooling through grade 12. The fifth class of College Bound students graduated from high school in June of 2006. Of the 30 students participating, four graduated from Cape Cod Regional Technical High School and fourteen graduated from Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School. We will, during the upcoming year research how many of these students are attending college. The remaining twelve students moved from the district and were unable to be tracked.