

THE CALL

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Big Brothers, Big Sisters announces school help program

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WOONSOCKET – Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ocean State recently announced the Achieving Success program, which will engage volunteer mentors with middle school students who need an extra boost of tutoring before they move on to high school.

Achieving Success is the product of Big Brothers Big Sisters and Connecting Children and Families, also based in Woonsocket. The program runs for six weeks over the summer from noon to 1:30 p.m., and started on July 6.

The program's goal is to help little brothers and sisters who don't have the grades needed to move on from middle school to high school.

George Marley, who works for Big Brothers Big Sisters, said that the 24 students who

are in the program aren't mandated to be there.

"It's completely voluntary," he said. "The kids are looking to better themselves, and the mentor program is to provide someone invested in you not just as a person but as a student."

Mentors sit down with students once a week for lunch, and to discuss the curriculum provided by Connecting Children and Families.

They may also discuss potential careers, learn about personal budgeting and work on skills that will one day help them secure a job. After the six-week summer session is over, mentors will meet with their high school freshman from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., one day a week.

About 25 percent of students at Woonsocket High will drop out, according to the current Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook, and only 58 percent will graduate on time.

The program is still in need of three female mentors for the summer session. Those who are interested must at be least 19 years old and available from noon to 1:30 p.m. one day a week, Monday through Thursday.

To apply, visit the organization's website at BBBSOS.org.