

MARRIED/PREGNANT/PARENTING STUDENTS

~~Married, pregnant and parenting students in the district shall have the same educational opportunities as all students.~~

The School Board believes that pregnancy and parenting should not be a barrier to education or a reason for dropping out of school. Married, pregnant, and parenting students in the district shall have the same educational opportunities as all students. ~~Rather than ending the teenager's need for education, pregnancy and parenting increase the need to cope with adult responsibilities and to prepare for an economically self-sufficient future.~~

Note: Title IX of federal law forbids sex discrimination in any school receiving federal assistance. No such school may deny participation in a class or extracurricular activity because of a student's pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, abortion, parenthood or marital status unless the student requests otherwise. If a student's physician requires her to be absent for a period of time due to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion, the school must allow such leave and subsequently reinstate her to the status she had when the leave began. The school cannot require pregnant students to attend special programs for pregnant minors.34 CFR 106.40

The following paragraph represents possible program choices for this special, high-risk group and should be modified to represent the programs currently provided in your school system.

The instructional program provided for pregnant students shall be determined on a case-by-case basis and shall be appropriate to the student's individual needs. The student may continue attending school in the regular classroom setting, may attend a separate program established for pregnant students if available, or may pursue a home instruction or correspondence study program.

Wherever possible, program staff shall work closely with the pregnant student's partner and/or parents/guardians and shall collaborate with local public and private agencies in order to expand the student's learning opportunities and support system.

After the birth of her baby, the student may:

1. Return to regular school program;
2. Remain in an alternative program;
3. ~~Request exemption from attendance because of personal reasons that may relate to the care of the child.~~

A pregnant student's participation in an alternative program is voluntary.

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Note: The following paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. According to USDOE guidance, Supporting the Academic Success of Pregnant and Parenting Students under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, when necessary to ensure a pregnant student's access to the educational program, the district must make adjustments to the regular program that are reasonable and responsive to the student's temporary pregnancy status. Examples in the USDOE pamphlet including providing larger desk, allowing frequent trips to the restroom, or permitting temporary access to elevators as necessary. The school also must provide any services to pregnant students that it provides to other students with temporary medical conditions, such as at-home instruction or tutoring for students who miss school because of such medical conditions. The USDOE publications lists additional programs and strategies that, although not required by federal law, may assist in addressing the needs of pregnant and parenting students.

When necessary, the district shall provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant and parenting students to enable them to access the education programs. A pregnant student shall have access to any services available to other students with temporary disabilities or medical conditions. A student that breastfeeds may request access to a private location, other than restroom, to breastfeed or express milk for her infant child.

Pregnant or parenting students may request exemption from attendance because of personal reasons which may relate to the care of the student or child. Further pregnant or parenting students may be excused for absences related to medical appointments.

(cf. 5112.1 - Exemptions)

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

The superintendent or designee will grant a student an attendance exemption or excuse absence due to pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, and related recovery for as long as it is deemed medically necessary by her physician. At the conclusion of the absences, the student will be reinstated to the status she held when the absence began.

(cf. 5112.1 - Exemptions from attendance)

Legal Reference:

TITLE IX, EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972

Adopted 6/01

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