

Unity School District - Board of Education

Board Policy 444

School-Age Parents/Married Students Educational Opportunities for Pregnant Students and School Age Parents

Last Revised 2/14/2023

School districts have the responsibility of providing equal educational opportunities for all resident students. The following guidelines, as stated by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, for Wisconsin schools dealing with pregnant school girls are hereby directed by the Unity Board of Education:

- A. The pregnant school-age girl who has not completed her high school education and who wishes to remain in the regular school program can be excluded only if in the best interest of the girl, modification of the regular program becomes advisable. Any plan for modification of her program should involve consultation with appropriate educational, medical and social agency personnel as well as the girl and her parents.
- B. The pregnant school-age girl within the compulsory school attendance age is able to withdraw from the regular school program and shall enroll in an appropriate and adequate alternate program.
- C. The pregnant school-age girl above the compulsory school attendance age, but below 21, shall receive intensive counseling and assistance toward either remaining in the regular school program or enrolling in an appropriate and adequate alternate educational program.

The appropriate and adequate educational program as offered by Unity High School will consist of:

- (1) Modification of the regular school program to meet the individual needs.
- (2) Enrollment in alternative education courses, as determined by the District, to satisfy the remaining requirements for graduation. The Unity Board of Education will pay for alternative courses which are successfully completed.

School age parents, including pregnant students, must be provided equal opportunities to participate in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational or other program or activity in accordance with [section 118.13](#) of the state statutes and [Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972](#).

School officials are specifically prohibited by [section 118.15\(4m\)](#) of the state statutes from compelling pregnant students to withdraw from school. Schools may implement special instructional programs or classes for pregnant students but participation must be completely voluntary on the part of the student. Also, the programs must be comparable to those offered to other students with regard to the range of academic, extracurricular and enrichment opportunities.

Wisconsin school districts are specifically required by [section 115.915](#) of the state statutes to make available to any school age parent who is a resident of the district program or curriculum modifications that will enable the student to continue his/her education. A school age parent is defined as any person (boy or girl) under 21 years of age who is not a high school graduate and is a parent, an expectant parent or a person who has been pregnant within the immediately preceding 120 days.

The school must excuse a student's absences because of pregnancy or childbirth for as long as the student's doctor deems the absences are medically necessary. When a student returns to school, she must be allowed to return to the same academic and extracurricular status as before her medical leave began.