

MARRIED/PREGNANT/PARENTING STUDENTS

The Board of Education recognizes that early marriage, pregnancy, or parenting may disrupt a student's education and increase the chance of a student dropping out of school. The Board therefore desires to support married, pregnant, and parenting students to continue their education, attain strong academic and parenting skills, and promote the healthy development of their children.

(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)
(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)
(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)
(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)
(cf. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)
(cf. 6146.2 - Certificate of Proficiency/High School Equivalency)
(cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)

The district shall not discriminate against any student on the basis of the student's marital status, pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or related recovery. (Education Code 230; 20 USC 1681-1688)

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)

Any education program or activity, including any class or extracurricular activity, that is offered separately to such students shall be comparable to that offered to other district students. A student's participation in such programs shall be voluntary. (34 CFR 106.40)

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)
(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

Any complaint of discrimination on the basis of pregnancy or marital or parental status shall be addressed through the district's uniform complaint procedures in accordance with 5 CCR 4600-4687 and BP/AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

For school-related purposes, a married student under the age of 18 years shall have all the rights and privileges of students who are 18 years old, even if the marriage has been dissolved. (Family Code 7002)

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically report to the Board regarding the effectiveness of district strategies to support married, pregnant, and parenting students, which may include data on participation rates in district programs and services, academic achievement, school attendance, graduation rate, and/or student feedback on district programs and services.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)
(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

MARRIED/PREGNANT/PARENTING STUDENTS (continued)

Pregnant and Parenting Students

Pregnant and parenting students shall retain the right to participate in any comprehensive school or educational alternative program. The classroom setting shall be the preferred instructional strategy unless an alternative is necessary to meet the needs of the student and/or his/her child.

(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)
(cf. 6181 - Alternative Schools/Programs of Choice)
(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)
(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)

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

(cf. 6183 - Home and Hospital Instruction)

A student may be required, based on her pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or related recovery, to obtain certification from a physician indicating that she is physically and emotionally able to participate in an educational program or activity, if other students with physical or emotional conditions or temporary disabilities are required by the district to provide such certification. (34 CFR 106.40)

To the extent feasible, educational and related support services shall be provided, either through the district or in collaboration with community agencies and organizations, to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students and their children. Such services may include, but are not limited to:

1. Child care and development services for the children of parenting students on or near school site(s) during the school day and during school-sponsored activities

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)
(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)
(cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)

2. Parenting education and life skills instruction
3. Special school nutrition supplements for pregnant and lactating students pursuant to Education Code 49553, 42 USC 1786, and 7 CFR 246.1-246.28

(cf. 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)
(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)

MARRIED/PREGNANT/PARENTING STUDENTS (continued)

4. Health care services, including prenatal care

(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

5. Tobacco, alcohol, and/or drug prevention and intervention services

(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)

(cf. 5131.62 - Tobacco)

6. Academic and personal counseling

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

7. Supplemental instruction to assist students in achieving grade-level academic standards and progressing toward graduation

(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

As appropriate, teachers, administrators, and/or other personnel who work with pregnant and parenting students shall receive related professional development.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

Pregnant or parenting students may be excused for absences related to confidential medical appointments in accordance with BP/AR 5113 - Absences and Excuses.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

The Superintendent or designee shall grant a student a leave of 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 leave, the student shall be reinstated to the status she held when the leave began. (34 CFR 106.40)

(cf. 5112.3 - Student Leave of Absence)

A pregnant or parenting student also may request exemption from attendance because of a related physical or mental condition or because of personal services that must be rendered to a dependent. (Education Code 48410)

(cf. 5112.1 - Exemptions from Attendance)

MARRIED/PREGNANT/PARENTING STUDENTS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

230 Sex discrimination
8200-8498 Child Care and Development Services Act
48205 Excused absences
48220 Compulsory education requirement
48410 Persons exempted from continuation classes
49553 Nutrition supplements for pregnant/lactating students
51220.5 Parenting skills and education
51745 Independent study
52610.5 Enrollment of pregnant and parenting students in adult education
54740-54749 Cal-SAFE program for pregnant/parenting students and their children

FAMILY CODE

7002 Description of emancipated minor

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

104460 Tobacco prevention services for pregnant and parenting students

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4687 Uniform complaint procedures
4950 Nondiscrimination, marital and parental status

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 22

101151-101239.2 General licensing requirements for child care centers
101351-101439.1 Infant care centers

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1681-1688 Title IX, Education Act Amendments

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

1786 Special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 7

246.1-246.28 Special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

106.40 Marital or parental status

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

87 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 168 (2004)

COURT DECISIONS

American Academy of Pediatrics et al v. Lungren et al (1997) 16 Cal.4th 307

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S LAW CENTER PUBLICATIONS

Educational Rights of Pregnant and Parenting Teens: Title IX and California State Law Requirements

The Civil Rights of Pregnant and Parenting Teens in California Schools, 2002

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Supporting the Academic Success of Pregnant and Parenting Students under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, rev. June 2013

WEB SITES

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

California Women's Law Center: <http://www.cwlc.org>

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Women, Infants, and Children Program: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>

Policy

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SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

San Diego, California