

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

SECTION: 200 Pupils

TITLE: Pregnant/Parenting/
Married Students

ADOPTED: April 27, 1981

REVISED: April 26, 2018

234 PREGNANT/PARENTING/MARRIED STUDENTS

Purpose

A student who is eligible to attend district schools and who is married and/or pregnant/parenting shall not be denied an educational program solely because of marriage, pregnancy, pregnancy-related disabilities, or potential or actual parenthood. [\[1\]](#)

The District recognizes that young parents who leave school early face greater hardship and poverty than young people who complete their education. Therefore, enhancing educational opportunities and improving outcomes for all students remains a priority. The District is committed to supporting the retention of pregnant and parenting students in schools and acknowledges that one of the most effective ways to minimize the risk of negative outcomes in terms of health, welfare and educational achievement is to support pregnant and parenting students to remain connected to learning.

Definitions

Pregnant student: A female student who is pregnant. May also be referred to as an expectant student.

Parenting student: Any student, male or female who is the biological parent or legal guardian of a child. May also be referred to as a school-age parent, teen parent or adolescent parent. Parenting student does not include any person whose parental rights have been terminated.

Biological Parent: A parent who has conceived (biological mother) or sired (biological father) rather than adopted a child and whose genes are therefore transmitted to the child.

Custodial Parent: The parent who has either sole physical custody of the child or the parent with whom the child resides for a majority of the time. Although courts often give two parents who are both fit parents joint custody of the child, the court may refer to the parent with the larger timeshare with the child as a custodial parent at times in court documents and during hearings.

ELECT Program: Education Leading to Employment and Career Training (ELECT) is a comprehensive, school-based, community-linked program that provides a broad array of academic and social service supports designed to help expectant and parenting students stay in school, earn a high school diploma or GED, and achieve the self-sufficiency required to make a successful transition to employment.

Approved Documentation of Parenting Status: The following documents of evidence include: (1) birth certificate, (2) ultrasound, (3) letter from physician, (4) WIC paperwork, and/or (5) child's medical card.

False Pregnancy or Pseudocyesis: A condition in which a woman believes that she's pregnant, yet conception hasn't taken place and no baby is forming inside.

Reasonable Adjustments: Students may request adjustments based on general pregnancy needs or accommodations based on a pregnancy-related complication. For example, a larger desk, elevator access, or allowing you to make frequent trips to the restroom, when necessary because of your pregnancy.

Mandatory Regulatory Guidelines

No school shall deny enrollment based upon a student's marital, pregnant or parenting status. Pregnant, parenting, and married students have the right to enroll in any school or program for which they would otherwise qualify. Pregnant/parenting/married students under the age of seventeen (17) are not excused from the requirements of compulsory attendance solely for the reasons of pregnancy or maternity. [1][2][3]

Students shall not be expelled, suspended, or otherwise excluded from, or required to participate in, any school programs solely on the basis of their pregnancy-related condition, or marital status. [1][2][3]

The district shall not discriminate against any student on the basis of the student's actual or potential parental, family or marital status, pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or related recovery. [2][3][4]

Education and Support Services for Pregnant and Parenting Students

Students shall not be excluded from, denied the benefit of, or discriminated against any education programming or activity, including any class or extracurricular activity, on the basis of such student's pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy or recovery therefrom. [2][3]

Any education program or activity that is offered separately to pregnant students, including any class or extracurricular activity, shall be equal to that offered to other district students. A student's participation in such programs shall be voluntary. [2][3]

To the extent feasible, educational and support services shall be provided, either through the district or in collaboration with community agencies and organizations, to meet the needs of pregnant or parenting students on a case by-case basis and appropriate to the student's individual needs. The student may continue attending school in the regular classroom or continuation education setting, or enroll in Philadelphia Virtual Academy.

Students who believe that they have been subject to discrimination or harassment due to their parental, pregnancy or marital status may file a complaint in accordance to the student complaint process or seek resolution with the District's Title IX Coordinator. [2][3]

Students will be allowed to return to the same academic and extracurricular status as before medical leave began, which should include giving students the opportunity to make up any work missed while they were out. [2][3] Students are expected to resume progress toward the completion of all assignments and activities as appropriate to their grade level and benchmarks. Teachers are encouraged to remain flexible in their expectations of students who become new parents, so that students can meet the demands of their studies at the same time that they face new demands in their parental roles.

Attendance and Absenteeism

The Superintendent or designee may grant students a leave of absence due to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion for as long as it is deemed medically necessary. At the conclusion of the leave, the student shall be allowed to reenter the school and be reinstated to the status held when the leave began in the same manner as any student whose nonattendance is a result of an excused absence or temporary disability. [2][3][6][7][8][9][10]

Like teen mothers, teen fathers must grapple with the regular trials of adolescence while also attempting to navigate parenthood. We want young dads to be responsible and nurturing parents, and to receive effective support and guidance. Schools are to remain flexible when supporting male students in their parenting role.

After delivery, the custodial parenting student's absence from school shall be permitted for a period not to exceed thirty (30) school days for the mother's physical recovery and/or adjustment to parenting, unless an extension of time is medically justified. It shall be necessary for the student to present a medical certification in the form of a note from his/her doctor explaining that the student is unable to attend school and the note must also specify the beginning and end dates of the leave of absence deemed necessary by the doctor.

Pregnant and parenting students also may request exemption from attendance because of a physical or mental condition or because of personal services that must be rendered to a dependent. [11]

Absences of parenting students shall be considered excused when absent due to the illness or medical appointment of a child or for whom the student is the custodial parent. Schools may require verification for illness absences in accordance with policies applicable to all students.

Health Services

Students are permitted to take a leave of absence for pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy and recovery therefrom for so long a period of time as is deemed medically necessary by the student's physician, at the conclusion of which the student shall be reinstated to the status which she held when the leave began. [2][3][6][8]

A physician's note certifying that the student is physically and emotionally able to continue participation shall be required under the terms and conditions authorized by Policy 117: Homebound Instruction. [3] [4] [5] [2][3][8]

A pregnant/parenting student whose mental or physical condition prevents his/her from attending regular classes, when such condition is certified by a licensed physician, may be assigned to homebound instruction. [2][3][8][12]

Homebound instruction shall not be granted to the student because of lack of child care or solely because the student is in her third trimester.

The school shall provide reasonable accommodations to any lactating student to express breast milk, breastfeed an infant child, or address other needs related to breastfeeding.

Confidential Communications

Health and personal information is confidential and should not appear in cumulative records. Pregnancy information is confidential and shall not be considered for educational of job opportunities, awards or scholarships.

All health records established and maintained shall be confidential, and their contents shall be divulged only when necessary for the health of the child or at the request of the parent or guardian to a physician legally qualified to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathy or osteopathic surgery in the Commonwealth. This reference pertains strictly to health records.
[13][14][15][16]

An exception to confidentiality includes but not limited to, suspicion of child abuse, or a clear and present danger to the health safety of student. Information received in confidence from a student may be revealed to the student's parents or guardians, the principal or other appropriate authority when the health, welfare or safety of the student or other persons is clearly in jeopardy.
[17]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative procedures for implementing this policy which include:

1. Reasonable adjustments to facilitate full education participation[6] .
2. Offering counseling services to help students plan their future.
3. Referrals to special programs or services to which the student may be assigned, upon request.
4. Cooperation with community resources to assist students.
5. Data collection and reporting on participation rates in district programs and services, academic achievement, school attendance, and graduation rates.

Legal References:

1. [22 PA Code 12.1](#)
2. [34 CFR 106.40](#)
3. [Title IX Marital or Parental Status \(1/2§ __.445\)](#)
4. Pol. 103 - [Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices](#)
5. Pol. 219 - [Student Complaint Process](#)
6. [24 P.S. § 13-1327](#)

7. Pol. 204 – [Attendance](#)
8. Pol. 117 - [Homebound Instruction](#)
9. [24 P.S. 1329](#)
10. [22 Pa. Code §11.25](#)
11. [Education Code 48410](#)
12. [22 Pa. Code §11.34](#)
13. Pol. 207 - [Confidential Communications of Students](#)
14. Pol. 216 - [Student Records](#)
15. [Pa. Code § 14-1409](#)
16. [216 Student Records](#)
17. [22 PA Code, Chapter 12, § 12.12](#)

Related Information:

Purdon’s Statutes

[24 P.S. 510](#)

[24 P.S. 696](#)

[24 P.S. 1326](#)

[24 P.S. 1327](#)

[24 P.S. 1327.1](#)

[24 P.S. 1329](#)

[24 P.S. 1330](#)

[24 P.S. 1371](#)

[24 P.S. 2103](#)

State Board of Education Regulations

[22 Pa. Code §11.13](#)

[22 Pa. Code §11.25](#)

[22 Pa. Code §11.34](#)

Other

[Know Your Rights: Pregnant or Parenting? Title IX Protects You From Discrimination At School](#)

[Supporting the Academic Success of Pregnant and Parenting Students Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972](#)