

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

No. 234
Section: 200 Pupils/Students
Title: Pregnant/Parenting/ Married
Students
Adopted: April 27, 1981
Revised: February 26, 2026

234 Pregnant/Parenting/Married Students

Purpose

A student who is eligible to attend School District of Philadelphia (District) schools and who is married and/or pregnant/parenting shall not be denied admission to the District or access to an educational program solely because of marriage, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, or potential or actual parenthood.[1][2][3][4][5] The District prohibits employees from applying any rule or taking any action which treats an applicant for admission or student differently on the basis of current, potential, or past parental, family, or marital status.

The District recognizes that young parents who leave school early face greater hardship and poverty than young people who complete their education. 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.

Authority

The Board directs that students who are married or experiencing pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions or parenting shall have equal access to the same educational programs, activities and services provided to other District students.[1][3]

The Board directs District staff to recommend reasonable modifications to Board policies and make reasonable modifications to administrative procedures and school rules as necessary to provide equal access to the District's educational program for a student experiencing pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions or parenting. Reasonable modifications are further defined in the Administrative Procedures for this Policy.

The District shall not require documentation from a student experiencing pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions or parenting in order to establish reasonable modifications or

provide equal access to educational programs and activities except as further explained within the administrative procedures.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee, shall develop Administrative Procedures for implementing this policy including:

1. Reasonable adjustments to facilitate full education participation.[6]
2. 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.

Mandatory Procedures

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 eighteen (18) 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]

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 reasonable, 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 and in accordance with the accommodation process for students with temporary disabilities. The student may continue attending school in the regular classroom or continuation education setting, or may request to enroll in Philadelphia Virtual Academy during an open enrollment period.

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 with the student complaint process or seek resolution with the District's Title IX Coordinator. [2][3][7]

When the student returns to the District, after a temporary absence for pregnancy or parenting, the student must be reinstated to the academic status and, as practicable, to the extracurricular status that the student held when the voluntary leave began. [2][3] This includes giving students a meaningful opportunity and reasonable time to make up any coursework or exams missed while they were out on leave. Students are expected to resume progress toward the completion of all assignments and activities as appropriate to their grade level and benchmarks. In addition to these requirements, 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, miscarriage, neonatal loss, or abortion for as long as it is deemed medically necessary by the student's own physician. 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][8][9][10][11][12]

Health Services

Should a pregnant or parenting student wish to pursue homebound instruction, they must provide information and documentation in accordance with Policy 117. [2][3][8][9]

A pregnant/parenting student whose mental or physical condition prevents them from attending regular classes, when such condition is certified by a licensed physician, may request homebound instruction in accordance with Policy 117. [2][3][9][12]

Homebound instruction shall not be granted to the student because of lack of child care or solely because the student is in their 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 when communicating or determining eligibility for job opportunities, awards or scholarships.

All health records contained within a student's educational records, shall be maintained confidentially, and their contents shall be divulged only when necessary for the health of the student or at the request of the parent of the student. This reference pertains strictly to health records. [13][14][15]

An exception to confidentiality includes but is not limited to, suspicion of child abuse, or a clear and present danger to the health safety of the 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. [16]

Legal References:

1. [22 Pa. Code § 12.1](#)
2. [16 Pa. Code § 41.204](#)
3. [Policy 103 - Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices](#)
4. [Policy 200 - Enrollment of Students](#)
5. [Policy 201 - Admission of Students](#)
6. [Policy 103.1 - Nondiscrimination-Qualified Students with Disabilities-Protected Handicapped Students](#)
7. [Policy 219 - Student Complaints](#)
8. [Policy 204 - Attendance](#)
9. [Policy 117 - Home and Hospital Instruction](#)
10. [24 P.S. § 13-1329](#)
11. [22 Pa. Code § 11.25](#)
12. [22 Pa. Code § 11.34](#)
13. [Policy 207 - Confidential Communications of Students](#)
14. [Policy 216 - Student Records](#)
15. [24 P.S. § 14-1409](#)
16. [22 Pa. Code § 12.12](#)

Related Information:

- [43 P.S. § 951 et seq](#)

- [16 Pa. Code § 41.201 et seq](#)
- [22 Pa. Code § 4.4](#)
- [22 Pa. Code § 12.4](#)
- [20 U.S.C. § 1232g](#)
- [29 U.S.C. § 794](#)
- [34 CFR Part 99](#)
- [PA. CONST. art. I, § 28](#)