

## 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 from any educational program or activity, including any class or extracurricular activity, on the sole basis of the student's marital status, pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or related recovery. In addition, the district shall not adopt any rule concerning student's actual or potential parental, family, or marital status that treats students differently on the sole basis of sex. (Education Code 230; 20 USC 1681-1688) (EC Section 221.51(a); 5 CCR Section 4950; 34 CFR Section 106.40(a))

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

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year of the rights and options available to pregnant and parenting students under the law. In addition, pregnant and parenting students shall be notified of the rights and options available to them under the law through annual school year welcome packets and through independent study packets. (Education Code 222.5, 48980)

Any alternative education program, activity, or course that is offered separately to pregnant or parenting 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. (Education Code 221.51; 5 CCR 4950)

*(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**

**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.

*(cf. 6183 - Home and Hospital Instruction)*

School sites with at least one lactating student shall provide reasonable accommodations to any lactating student to express breast milk, breastfeed an infant child, or address other needs related to breastfeeding. A student shall not incur an academic penalty for using any of these reasonable accommodations and shall be provided the opportunity to make up any work missed due to such use. Reasonable accommodations include, but are not limited to: (Education Code 222)

1. Access to a private and secure room, other than a restroom, to express breast milk or breastfeed an infant child.
2. Permission to bring onto a school campus a breast pump and any other equipment used to express breast milk.
3. Access to a power source for a breast pump or any other equipment used to express breast milk.
4. Access to a place to store expressed breast milk safely.
5. A reasonable amount of time to accommodate the student's need to express breast milk or breastfeed an infant child.

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)*

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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)*

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 maintain confidentiality and 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. A student shall be excused for absences to care for a sick child for whom the student is the custodial parent. A note from a physician shall not be required for such an absence. (Education Code 48205)

*(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)*

A pregnant or parenting student shall be entitled to eight weeks of parental leave in order to protect the health of the student who gives or expects to give birth and the infant, and to allow the pregnant or parenting student to care for and bond with the infant. Such leave may be taken before the birth of the student's infant if there is a medical necessity and after childbirth during the school year in which the birth takes place, inclusive of any mandatory summer instruction. The Superintendent or designee may grant parental leave beyond eight weeks if deemed medically necessary by the student's physician. (Education Code 46015; 34 CFR 106.40)

The student, if age 18 years or older, or the student's parent/guardian shall notify the school of the student's intent to take parental leave. No student shall be required to take all or part of the parental leave. (Education Code 46015)

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When a student takes parental leave, the attendance supervisor shall ensure that absences from the regular school program are excused until the student is able to return to the regular school program or an alternative education program. A pregnant or parenting student shall not be required to complete academic work or other school requirements during the period of the parental leave. (Education Code 46015)

Following the leave, a pregnant or parenting student may elect to return to the school and the course of study in which the student was enrolled before taking parental leave or to an alternative education option provided by the district. Upon return to school, a pregnant or parenting student shall have opportunities to make up work missed during the leave, including, but not limited to, makeup work plans and reenrollment in courses. (Education Code 46015)

When necessary to complete high school graduation requirements, the student may remain enrolled in school for a fifth year of instruction, unless the Superintendent or designee makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete district graduation requirements in time to graduate by the end of the fourth year of high school. (Education Code 46015)

*(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)*

### 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

**MARRIED/PREGNANT/PARENTING STUDENTS**

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