



**ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE**

**Category:** Instructional, Special Programs

**Subject:** School Attendance of, and Equal Education Access for, Married Students, Pregnant Students, and Minor Parents

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**A. PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

1. To outline administrative procedures governing attendance of students who marry or become pregnant, married students new to the district, and young mothers; and to assure equitable access to, and the opportunity to participate in and benefit from, high-quality curricular and extracurricular activities for every pregnant minor and minor parent.
2. **Related Procedure:**  
High school diploma program ..... 4410

**B. LEGAL AND POLICY BASIS**

1. **Reference:** Board policy: C-4700, F-1500, F-2600, F-2750, F-6000, H-1501, H-7800; California Code of Regulations Sections 3640-3645; California Family Code Section 302.

**C. GENERAL**

1. **Originating Office.** Suggestions or questions concerning this procedure should be directed to the Student Services Division, Office of Instructional Support.
2. **Minors Contemplating Marriage.** Anyone under the age of eighteen who plans to marry in the State of California must have the permission of the Superior Court, and the Court may prescribe premarital counseling. Further information may be obtained from a school counselor.
3. **Pregnant Students**
  - a. **Staff knowledge of student pregnancy.**
    - (1) If a school counselor or school nurse receives information that a student is pregnant or seeking counseling or care related to pregnancy or any options related to pregnancy, such information is confidential. Except in case of medical emergency as described in paragraph three below, such confidential information shall not be disclosed to anyone or made part of the pupil record without the student's written consent. Upon receiving any such information, the nurse and/or school counselor shall offer to meet and

discuss the situation with the student to provide support and guidance as appropriate; however, there is no obligation to meet and confer.

- (2) If any other member of the school staff receives information that a student is pregnant or seeking counseling or care related to pregnancy or any options related to pregnancy, the staff member should report the information to the school nurse or counselor and encourage the student to meet with the school nurse or counselor regarding the matter. Except in case of medical emergency as described in paragraph three below, the staff member shall not otherwise disclose to anyone or include in the pupil record any information that a student is pregnant or seeking counseling or care related to pregnancy or any options related to pregnancy.
- (3) A medical emergency is a “situation...requiring immediate services for alleviation of severe pain, or immediate diagnosis of unforeseeable medical conditions, which, if not immediately diagnosed and treated, could lead to serious disability or death.” (California Business and Professions Code § 2397(c)(2)&(3)). Pregnancy in and of itself does not constitute a medical emergency. In the event of a medical emergency involving a pregnant student, a school staff member who has information that the student is pregnant may inform emergency medical personnel of such information, if appropriate, but only if the student is unable to communicate the information because of the emergency.

#### 4. **Married Students**

- a. **Attendance.** Marriage does not end the compulsory attendance requirement. Married students have a legal right to attend school; marriage is not grounds for exclusion, exemption, or transfer.
- b. **District practice**
  - (1) **Senior high school.** Married students who desire to continue in their own schools should be given an opportunity to do so. If problems develop, usually it is best to transfer married students to an independent learning center, the district High School Diploma Program, or an adult high school. The principal may contact the school counselor or designee for assistance.

- (2) **Middle level school.** The school status of married students should be evaluated individually. Students who are married or pregnant should be given information regarding educational alternatives. If they wish to remain at their resident schools, their cases will be reviewed by the principals or designees.
- (3) **Elementary school.** All cases must be brought to the attention of the Counseling and Guidance Program Manager.
- (4) **Husband and wife enrolled in same school.** If problems develop as a result of husband and wife both attending the same school, the case may be referred to the School-Initiated Placement Council.
- (5) **Married students new to district**
  - (a) Students previously enrolled in a comprehensive senior high school outside the district and desiring to enroll in their San Diego Unified School District school of residence should be given an opportunity to do so.
  - (b) Students previously enrolled in a continuation or opportunity school, or not enrolled in any school, must be counseled to enroll in an alternative education school (C.3.d.[2]), the district High School Diploma Program, or an adult high school, as appropriate.
- (6) **Married students under eighteen or students who are members of the armed forces** may enroll in adult classes.

## 5. **Equal Education Access**

- a. Every pregnant minor and minor parent shall have access to the following services:
  - (1) Referral to prenatal and related support services
  - (2) Outreach services and assessment of drug and smoking status
  - (3) Individualized counseling and advocacy services
  - (4) Motivational messages

- (5) Cessation services, if appropriate
- (6) Incentives to maintain a healthy lifestyle
- (7) Follow-up assessment
- (8) Maintenance and relapse-prevention services

**D. IMPLEMENTATION** (For pregnant students)

1. **Student** informs staff person (often nurse or school counselor) of suspected or confirmed pregnancy and/or consideration of abortion.
2. **Staff person** responses shall be consistent with the confidentiality provisions contained in Section C.3.a. above.
3. **Nurse**
  - a. Upon request from minor, advises parents/guardians and student of appropriate medical and community resources.
  - b. Upon request from minor, acts as liaison among student, parents/guardians, student's physician, and school personnel.
  - c. Upon request from minor, provides services or furnishes information concerning sources of appropriate help for the following:
    - (1) Referral to prenatal and related support services
    - (2) Outreach services and assessment of drug and smoking status
    - (3) Individualized counseling and advocacy services
    - (4) Motivational messages
    - (5) Cessation services, if appropriate
    - (6) Incentives to maintain a healthy lifestyle
    - (7) Follow-up assessment

(8) Maintenance and relapse-prevention services

4. **School Counselor**

- a. Upon request from minor, provides support to minor when informing parent/guardian of pregnancy, if notification is authorized under Section C.3.a.
  - b. Upon request from minor, consults with parents/guardians and student in planning educational program to be pursued during and following pregnancy.
  - c. Provides services or furnishes information concerning sources of appropriate help for the following:
    - (1) Referral to related support services
    - (2) Outreach services and assessment of drug and smoking habits
    - (3) Individualized counseling and advocacy services
    - (4) Motivational messages
    - (5) Cessation services, if appropriate
    - (6) Incentives to maintain a healthy lifestyle
    - (7) Follow-up
    - (8) Maintenance and relapse-prevention services
  - d. Processes regular school exemption of indefinite duration if student and parents/guardians desire to discontinue her formal education.
  - e. As requested, may act as liaison among parents/guardians, student's physician, Collaborative for Student Wellness, and school personnel.
  - f. If formal appeal from stated policy is made by parents or other legally concerned adults, prepares case summary, at request of principal, for presentation to School-Initiated Placement Council.
5. **School-Initiated Placement Council** reviews case summary with principal and school counselor or designee; recommends placement.

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6. **Counseling and Guidance Program Manager**, upon referral from principal or direct appeal from parents/guardians or other legally concerned adults, submits case summary with recommendations to the Chief Student Services Officer.
7. **Chief Student Services Officer** acts on recommendation.
8. **Nurse of school enrolling young mother** obtains statement from student's physician indicating that health and welfare of neither mother nor child will be endangered by return to school; informs principal.

**Note:** Return may be no earlier than two weeks after birth.

9. **Principal or designee** plans appropriate educational program.

#### **E. FORMS AND AUXILIARY REFERENCES**

1. Student Health Record, Stock Item 22-H-1205
2. Student Health Record Insert Sheet, Stock Item 22-H-1206
3. School-Initiated Placement Form

#### **F. REPORTS AND RECORDS**

1. School counselor or designee, if formal appeal from stated policy is made, prepares case summary at request of principal for presentation to School-Initiated Placement Council.

#### **G. APPROVED BY**



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General Counsel, Legal Services  
San Diego Unified School District