

MARRIED/PREGNANT/PARENTING STUDENTS

Married, pregnant and parenting students in the district shall have the same educational opportunities as all students.

For school-related purposes, married students under the age of eighteen (18) are emancipated minors and have all the rights and privileges of a student who is 18, even if the marriage has been dissolved.

The Governing Board believes that pregnancy and parenting should not be a barrier to education or a reason for dropping out of school. Rather than ending the teenager's need for education, pregnancy and parenting increase the need to cope with adult responsibilities and to prepare for an economically self-sufficient future.

The instructional program provided for pregnant students shall be determined on a case by case basis and shall be appropriate to the student's individual needs. The student may continue attending school in the regular classroom setting, may attend a separate program established for pregnant students, or may pursue a home instruction or independent study program. The district shall coordinate transportation and scheduling so that students may attend their regular classes for part of the day and specialized classes for the remainder. When selecting the program to be followed, the student shall be encouraged to consult with her spouse or parent/guardian, her physician, and appropriate district medical and educational advisors.

After the birth of her baby, the student may:

1. Return to regular high school or junior high classes.
2. Remain in an alternative program
3. Attend continuation high school or adult education classes.
4. Request exemption from attendance because of personal services that must be rendered to a dependent (Education Code 48410©).

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(Continued)

PREGNANT MINORS PROGRAM

The Board recognizes that pregnant minors may derive great benefit from a specialized program that supplements academic courses with practical instruction geared to their specific needs. In addition to providing psychological support, this program includes instruction in health, prenatal and postnatal care, preparation for childbirth and parenting, home economics, consumer education, child development, money management and employable skills.

The district's program for pregnant minors shall:

1. Identify program goals, student needs, and community resources.
2. Provide an academic program which gives equal educational opportunities to pregnant minors.
3. Maintain a program advisory council to advise the Superintendent in implementation of the program.
4. Provide student referral, placement, and transition procedures for students who have not completed graduation requirements at the end of their program eligibility.
5. Have available a program expenditure budget, approved by the Board and County Board of Education, which justifies its funding request.

The Superintendent or designee shall appoint a program plan committee to review individual participation in the program. (Title 5, Section 11827)

Written notice shall be provided to each pregnant minor's parent/guardian, describing the program plan for the enrolled student. If the student is married or legally emancipated, this notice is not required.

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(Continued)

Any student is eligible for participation in the program if she has not graduated from high school and has a written pregnancy verification from a licensed physician. A doctor's statement that the student is receiving prenatal care must be obtained by the Superintendent within sixty (60) days after placement in the program. All further eligibility considerations shall comply with Title 5, Section 11829.

A doctors statement is required of students applying for the pregnant minor program.

Wherever possible, program staff shall work closely with the pregnant student's partner and/or parents/guardians and shall collaborate with local public and private agencies in order to expand the student's learning opportunities and support system.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

2551.3	Determination of state aid for pregnant minors program
8900-8901	Pregnant minors program
48410©	Persons exempted from continuation classes
49558	Confidentiality of applications and records
49559	Reimbursement rates; qualification of pregnant or lactating students for programs

FAMILY CODE

7002	Description of emancipated minor
7050	Purposes for which emancipated minor considered an adult

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

11820 et seq.	Pregnant minor program
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TUSD Adopted: 5/26/98

