

**Administrative Procedures for Policy #3890 (Administration) of the Board of Education
Regarding Pregnant and Parenting Students**

- I. Definitions
 - A. Parenting student - means a student who is the mother, father, or legal guardian of a child.
- II. Limitations of Liability
 - A. In accordance with the statute, nothing in the legislation shall be construed to require a school to construct an addition or new space to a school building to provide a private lactation space to comply with the requirements of the policy.
- III. Attendance and Lawful Absences
 - A. Students must be lawfully excused for any pregnancy or parenting related conditions, including absences for:
 1. labor
 2. delivery
 3. recovery
 4. prenatal and postnatal medical appointments.
 - B. Pregnant or parenting students must be allowed at least 10 days of excused absences after the birth of the student's child.
 - C. Pregnant or parenting students must be allowed excused absences due to the illness or medical appointment of the student's child, including up to four days per year for which the school may not require a note from a physician.
 - D. In addition, pregnant or parenting students must be allowed excused absences for legal appointments related to family law proceedings, including adoption, custody, and visitation.
 - E. Section §4-139 of the Education Article added the requirement to excuse any absence from a class due to use of a lactation space. Parenting students must be excused from class due to the use of a lactation space to nurse or express milk.
- IV. Make Up Work
 - A. Section §7-301.1 of the Education Article authorized schools to allow pregnant and parenting students to make up work in ways other than home and hospital teaching.
 1. Beyond home and hospital teaching, pregnant and parenting students may be allowed to make up work in other ways by:
 - a. retaking a semester

- b. participating in an online course credit recovery program
 - c. allowing the student six weeks to continue at the same pace and finish at a later date
 - B. Students should be afforded the opportunity to consult with school counselors to discuss options for making up missed work. All options should be considered, including summer and night school, tutors, dual enrollment, Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities (MVLO) courses, and other credit recovery programs.
- V. Lactation
 - A. Section §4-139 of the Education Article adds the requirement that each high school must provide a private lactation space.
 - 1. Each high school must provide a private lactation space in the school.
 - 2. The lactation space must include at least one seating option with a flat surface.
 - 3. The lactation space must include an electrical outlet nearby to accommodate placement of a breast pump device.
 - 4. The lactation space may not be a bathroom or a closet.
 - 5. The lactating student must have access to a refrigerator located close to the private lactation space.
 - B. Students should be afforded the opportunity to consult with school nurses as to the best place and space for lactation.
 - C. With student permission, alerting the school nurses of any student needing a safe lactation space so the nurse can share information and resources on lactations and child development with the parent.
- VI. Support for Students
 - A. Section §4-139 of the Education Article requires schools to designate at least one staff member to connect students to the following services resources:
 - 1. safe, affordable, and reliable childcare,
 - 2. early education services, and
 - 3. transportation services to and from school.
 - B. Students should be afforded the opportunity to consult with school social workers and school pupil personnel workers regarding community resources.
 - C. Staff may assist the student to work with the local school system Office of Transportation to provide transportation services as needed and as appropriate.
- VII. Local policy, training, and communication
 - A. Each county board will establish a policy to support the educational and parenting goals and improve the educational outcomes of pregnant and parenting students based on the MSDE model policy.

- B. Each local school system must provide for training of school personnel on policy objectives and requirements.
- C. Each school system will publish the policy in the school system's student handbook.

VIII. Communication

- A. Calvert County Public Schools will identify staff who can reach out to pregnant and parenting students to offer support. Staff may include, but are not limited to, school nurses, school counselors, school social workers, and pupil personnel workers.
- B. Calvert County Public Schools will inform staff about the policy regarding pregnant and parenting students during opening-of-school meetings and then periodically throughout the school year.
- C. Calvert County Public Schools will inform students about the policy and note the information in the Student Handbook during orientation sessions in classes.
- D. Calvert County Public Schools will identify designated staff so students know who they can contact for additional support.

IX. Resources for Schools and Students

- A. Section 7-301.1 of the Education Article, Education-Pregnant and Parenting Students <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Laws/StatuteText?article=ged§ion=7-301.1&enactments=False&archived=False>
- B. Section 4-139 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland (Chapter 438) - Maryland's Model Policy to Support the Educational and Parenting Goals and Improve the Educational Outcomes of Pregnant and Parenting Students https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/chapters_noln/Ch_346_sb0438T.pdf
- C. Maryland Department of Health Maternal and Child Health Bureau <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/mch/Pages/home.aspx>
- D. Maryland Department of Health Medicaid eligibility <https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Apply%20for%20Medicaid.aspx>
- E. Maryland Department of Health-Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) <https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/chp/pages/home.aspx>
- F. Maryland State Department of Education Division of Early Childhood, Office of Child Care <https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/office-child-care>
- G. Maryland Department of Human Services <https://dhs.maryland.gov>
- H. 2-2-1 Health and Human Services Community Resources (Maryland) <https://211md.org/>