

STUDENT PREGNANCIES

GENERAL

A female student who is or becomes pregnant while enrolled in the schools of Tuscaloosa County shall notify either the counselor, the school nurse, the assistant principal, or the principal as soon as the pregnancy has been confirmed. The student will be given a copy of the pregnancy procedure at the time she notifies school authorities of her pregnancy. A student must take a copy of this procedure to her parent(s)/guardian(s) and return a verification of receipt signed by parent/guardian before returning to school.

PHYSICIAN'S STATEMENT

In order to remain in school, a pregnant student will provide the principal with a written statement from the attending licensed physician, including his/her recommendation concerning the advisability of school attendance of the pregnant student. If a student has difficulty in scheduling an initial appointment, a student may remain in school until the time of the appointment (not longer than six (6) weeks) with a note from her parent or guardian who would assume liability for her attendance. The student shall provide an additional statement from her physician each four weeks verifying that she is physically able to continue her attendance in school.

REGULATIONS APPLICABLE DURING SEMESTER OF DELIVERY

A pregnant student who chooses to remain in school during the semester in which she expects to deliver the child shall be governed by the same attendance policies, appeals, procedures, minimum course requirements, and code of conduct as are applicable to all other students. Some courses, such as physical education, may need accommodations.

ATTENDANCE

In order to continue a responsible relationship with the school and to maintain grades and academic standing during the time the student is out of school to deliver the child, the student should meet the following responsibilities:

1. Remain in school as long as the attending physician determines that it is medically advisable.
2. The student must complete all work assignments as may be assigned by school personnel or homebound teacher as applicable on a timely basis.
3. After the birth of the child, the student must return to school as soon as the attending physician determines that the student is able. A written statement from the student's physician must be presented to school officials certifying that the student is able to resume normal school activities. Following delivery, a student will qualify for homebound instruction for a period of up to six (6) weeks. If delivery complications require homebound instruction for longer than six (6) weeks, a student is eligible to apply for Homebound Study.

ABSENCES

ANTICIPATED TIME OF LESS THAN FOUR (4) WEEKS

If the anticipated absence from school will not extend beyond a four (4) week period, the student must schedule a meeting with her teacher to plan a program of schoolwork assignments prepared by her teachers. It shall be the responsibility of the student to insure that a member of her family comes to the school weekly to pick up such work.

ANTICIPATED TIME OF MORE THAN FOUR (4) WEEKS

If the anticipated absence from school will extend beyond a four (4) week period, the student must meet with school officials to complete application forms and materials to qualify for "Homebound" instruction (see application procedures for "homebound". When a student is classified as "Homebound", she must anticipate an absence from school for more than four (4) weeks and have a statement on file from her physician verifying the illness/condition. Once a student has been approved from homebound instruction, that student is not counted absent in calculating attendance statistics. A student will be counted absent prior to the date that homebound study has been approved.

In no case will a pregnant student be removed from school or intentionally discriminated against solely because of pregnancy.

VERIFICATION OF RECEIPT OF PROCEDURE

I have received and read the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education procedure "Student Pregnancies."

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the school counselor or the school principal.

LEGAL REF.:

The Code of Alabama, 16-1-14 to -16; U. S. Const. Amend. XIV, 1; 10 U. S. C. 1681 et. Seq.; Cleveland Bd. Of Ed. V. LaFleur, 94 S. Ct. 791 (1974).

