



PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS

1. As a pregnant student or teen parent you have the same right as any student to continue your education, and the same responsibility to attend school.
2. You have the right to stay at your current school. You cannot be excluded from any school or program for which you qualify. This includes magnet, gifted, special education or any other schools or programs. You also have the right to participate in all school activities that may include: field trips, student council and clubs, afterschool activities, graduation, awards and ceremonies, and all school related programs. You also have the right to participate in physical education and school sports; however, you can arrange to modify or limit your participation if your licensed healthcare provider advises it.
3. You have the right to be treated with respect and protected from discrimination and harassment. All school staff has the responsibility to protect your rights and to assure that both staff and students treat you with respect. School staff members are not allowed to discriminate against you (treat you unfairly) because you are pregnant or are a parent, whether or not you are married. School staff must also take action to protect you against discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying by other students.
4. You have a right to have your confidentiality respected. Your health and personal information should be kept confidential, just like that of other students. Information about your pregnancy should not appear in your cumulative or other school records. It cannot be used against you when you apply or are considered for awards, scholarships, or educational and job opportunities. Personal information you share with a nurse, social worker, psychologist or licensed counselor is confidential and should not be shared with other people without your permission. An exception is made to this rule of confidentiality when there is concern that you or your child has been abused or is in danger. In this situation, school staff must make a child abuse report or follow other school district policy.
5. You have a right to request that your school make reasonable accommodations to make sure you can participate in all school programs and activities. These accommodations might include, but are not limited to:



PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS

- Passes for bathroom use as needed
- Additional time for class changes, nutrition, and lunch
- School-based independent study when you are absent due to health related issues
- Class changes to minimize absences due to childbirth and recovery
- Class changes to permit use of school-based childcare
- Classes in more accessible locations
- A reasonable amount of time to accommodate the need to express breast milk or breastfeed an infant child
- Access to a private and secure room to express breast milk or breast-feed an infant child
- Permission to bring onto a school campus a breast pump and any other equipment used to express breast milk
- Access to a power source for a breast pump or any other equipment used to express breast milk
- Access to a place to store expressed breast milk safely
- An opportunity to make up work missed due to the use of accommodations

6. Enrollment at any other program specially designed for pregnant or parenting students, must be completely voluntary on your part. PUSD had two alternative schools Rose City and the Center for Independent Study. In addition, Learning Works is a school that supports pregnant and parenting students by providing childcare and other services. To obtain further information about these schools talk to your school counselor or nurse. If you make the decision to transfer to one of these specialized schools, work with your school counselor to make sure that your grades or credits are not lost in the process. Also make sure that the new school has the classes that you need or can make an arrangement for you to get them. You have the right to return to your previous school. Make sure you are informed about when and how you can return. This is especially important if you are close to graduation.

7. You have a right to excused absences for illness or medical appointments for yourself or your child. Excused absences also include absences due to childbirth and recovery, miscarriage, or pregnancy termination. You may be asked to provide a note from your licensed healthcare provider if other students with absences are also required to do so. Keep a copy of all notes and documents in case you need them again. As a pregnant student, you also have a right to an extended absence when you have your baby or for a pregnancy-related illness. The length of this absence is decided by your licensed healthcare provider based on your health needs. At the end of the absence, you must be allowed to return to school with the same status you had when you began the absence.



PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS

8. You must be allowed to make up work missed during an excused absence. After an extended absence, you must be allowed a reasonable amount of time to make up assignments, missed exams or other work or be provided with a reasonable equivalent of work. Once the work is satisfactorily completed, you must be given full credit. It is best to plan ahead, whenever possible, for absences and making up missed work. Make arrangements with school staff as soon as possible and save all of your papers.

9. Get the information and support you need to stay in school and graduate. Your school counselor, nurse, PSA counselor and other school staff can provide information and support to help you continue your education. They have information about social services, including the Adolescent Family Life (Altamed Youth Services, El Nido Family Centers, Project NATEEN, and Youth and Family Center) and Cal Learn Programs that are designed to assist pregnant and parenting teens.

10. You have a right to get help if you feel you have been treated unfairly due to your pregnancy or parenting status. Take your concern to a school administrator or to the Title IX Coordinator at your school district. Your complaint should be handled in a timely manner and your rights and confidentiality should be respected. No one should threaten you because you make a complaint.