

Descriptor Term: PREGNANT MARRIED STUDENTS/UNWED MOTHERS

Descriptor Code: JQE

Rescinds: JQE/JQF/JQG

Board Approved: 12/5/2016

Previously Approved: 4/04/1988

Marital, maternal, or paternal status will not affect the rights and privileges of students to receive a public education in the Gulfport School District nor to take part in any extracurricular activity offered by the school.

Pregnant students will be permitted to continue in school in all instances unless the student's physician rules otherwise. If continued attendance is not advised by the physician, the principal is authorized to make special arrangements for the instruction of the student and to provide an appropriate educational program.

The Board is committed and dedicated to the task of providing the best education possible for all students in the District as long as they can profit from attendance and their conduct is compatible with the welfare of the group.

Under this guiding philosophy, the Board believes that married and/or pregnant students have the same privileges and carry the same responsibilities as other students and sets forth the following provisions:

1. The staff will advise students strongly against marriage until completion of their high school education. It will be pointed out to the students that marriage is a very serious and important step in life and should not be taken lightly and without due consideration of the added responsibilities it imposes on both parties. A solid foundation upon which a successful marriage can be built includes, among other things, some degree of financial independence, a home of one's own, and freedom from the constant concern and dependence upon parents. Students in high school will find it difficult, if not impossible, to possess these important factors for a successful early marriage. The added responsibilities of marriage will make it difficult to gain the full educational benefits of the total school program.
2. Married students are asked to report their marriage to their guidance counselors so that school records can be kept up-to-date and accurate.
3. Pregnant students are asked to notify their guidance counselor, homeroom teacher or administrator as soon as the condition has been determined.
4. In the event of pregnancy, students may elect any one of the following procedures concerning their education:

- a. If the pregnant girl wishes to remain in school, approval from the girl's doctor must

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be obtained. The doctor's statement should advise that attendance at school and participation in the regular school program will have no adverse effects on the girl's health. When the condition of pregnancy reaches a state of development where the nature of school activities is considered to be hazardous to the girl's health and welfare, and, after a conference with the girl's guidance counselor, the principal will notify in writing the girl and her doctor of this situation. The responsibility for her continuance in school will then rest with the girl and her doctor.

- b. If the pregnant girl chooses to leave school and wishes to continue her education, the school will provide homebound instruction until such time as her doctor states that she may return to school. In the event that she cannot return to school, home instruction should be continued for the remainder of the school year. Every effort will be made to insure her graduation from school.
- c. If the pregnant girl chooses to leave school and not continue her education, every effort will be made to reinstate her the following year.

5. Pregnant and/or married students will be permitted to attend adult school.

A student's marital status will not affect a student's eligibility for participation in education or extracurricular, (including athletics), programs. Pregnancy will affect a student's participation in such activities as stated in 4.a. above.

Legal Reference: Title IX - 45 CFR Section 86.40