

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR**  
**PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS**

Effective: September 19, 2017

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**I. Confidentiality and Disclosure**

- A. Under The Annotated Code of Maryland, Health-General Article, section 20-102, a minor has the same capacity as an adult to consent to treatment for, or advice about pregnancy.

This treatment or advice is confidential and may not be disclosed without the student's consent.

- B. If a student is pregnant, employees should consider whether child abuse is an issue. If so, Policy 1030 Child Abuse and Neglect, must be followed, including all reporting requirements.
- C. When a student seeks counseling regarding pregnancy concerns, the first goal is to encourage the student to involve the family. Staff members working with the pregnant student will provide information regarding community resources available to them.

**II. Educational Decision-Making**

- A. The school counselor and nurse will work collaboratively with pregnant or parenting students (or students who reportedly may be pregnant) to:
1. Communicate student rights under this policy.
  2. Ensure that the student is aware of possible program modifications or alternative educational programs.
  3. Outline types of support available through the school system and associated eligibility guidelines.
  4. Provide appropriate community resource information.
  5. Provide assistance in accessing programs and resources.
- B. Modification of the educational program for minor pregnant or parenting students requires parental permission and prior approval of the principal/designee.

**III. Other Support Services**

- A. The nurse, in consultation with the school counselor, will consider the following when developing a support plan for the pregnant student:

1. The student's age and developmental level.
  2. Whether child/sexual abuse or criminal assault is involved.
  3. The student's parent(s) awareness of the pregnancy and their level of support.
  4. The student's access to health care.
- B. Health staff will provide in-school support as appropriate.
- C. Referrals for appropriate services to the local agencies may be made, particularly if the student has no access to health care, by health staff.
- D. Student services staff will cooperate as appropriate with other state and local agencies, such as health, welfare, and juvenile services and with private physicians or agencies to assure that the pregnant student receives proper medical, psychological, and social services during and following the pregnancy.

#### **IV. Educational Programs**

- A. Pregnant and parenting students will be made aware that a regional center and outreach services are available.
- B. Outreach services are available in their home school for all pregnant and parenting students.
- C. High school students seeking to enroll in the regional program for parenting students will be referred to the program facilitator. Parental consent is required for minor students.
- D. School counselors will inform students of all possible alternative pathways to graduation.
- E. Students requesting Home and Hospital services before or after delivery will be referred to the Home and Hospital Teaching Office.
- F. Pregnant and parenting students may choose one of the following alternatives to make up work that the student missed for a lawful, excused absence:
1. Retake a semester;
  2. Participate in an online course credit recovery program; or
  3. Allow the student six weeks to continue at the same pace and finish at a later date.

**V. Attendance**

1. Pregnancy- and parenting-related conditions are lawful/excused absences for:
  - a. Labor
  - b. Delivery
  - c. Recovery
  - d. Prenatal and postnatal medical appointments.
2. A parenting student is allowed ten (10) lawful/excused absences days after the birth of the student's child. Exceptions can be made for additional lawful/excused absences upon approval of the Superintendent/Designee.
3. A parenting student's absences due to an illness or a medical appointment of the student's child are lawful/excused absences. After four days of such absences, during a school year, a physician's note may be required.
4. A student's absences due to a legal appointment involving the pregnant or parenting student that is related to family law proceedings, including adoption, custody, and visitation are lawful/excused absences.

**VI. History**

ADOPTED: September 13, 1990  
REVIEWED:  
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