

**WELFARE**

**Married / Pregnant / Parenting Students**

**STATUS OF MARRIED / PREGNANT / PARENTING STUDENTS**

The governing board believes that pregnancy and parenting should not be a barrier to education or a reason for dropping out of school. Rather than ending a teenager's need for education, pregnancy and parenting increase the need to cope with adult responsibilities and to prepare for an economically self-sufficient future.

Thus, the board affirms that married, pregnant, and parenting students in the District shall have the same educational opportunities as all students.

Further, for school related purposes, married students under the age of eighteen are emancipated minors and have all the rights and privileges of a student who is eighteen, even if the marriage has been dissolved.

**INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM FOR PREGNANT STUDENTS**

The instructional program provided for pregnant students shall be determined on a case by case basis and shall be appropriate to the student's individual needs. Choices for the student are that she:

1. May continue to attend school in the regular classroom setting;
2. May pursue a home instruction or independent study program;
3. May attend continuation school for all or part of her instructional program; or
4. May attend a separate regional program established for pregnant students if the student can provide her own transportation.

When selecting the program to be followed, the student shall be encouraged to consult with her spouse or parent/guardian, her physician, and the appropriate District medical and educational advisors.

**NUTRITION**

Pregnant or lactating students shall qualify for nutrition program supplements as provided under Education Code 49559(b). All applications and eligibility records concerning these supplements shall be confidential.

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POSTNATAL CHOICES

After the birth of her child, choices for the student are that she:

1. Return to regular junior or senior high school classes;
2. Continue with home instruction or an independent study program;
3. Remain in continuation school; or
4. Remain in the separate regional program.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Any student is eligible to participate in the programs described above if she has not graduated from high school and has a written pregnancy verification from a licensed physician. Because prenatal care is so important, the student should have the physician's statement at the time she applies for any of the programs.

*Legal References:*

Education Code

2551.3 *Pregnant minors programs operated by county superintendent of schools; rules and regulations*

8900 *Rules and regulations [for pregnant minors programs]*

8901 *Continuation of operation of pregnant minors programs*

48410(c) *Persons exempted from continuation classes*

49558 *Confidentiality of applications and records*

49559 *Reimbursement rates; qualifications of pregnant or lactating students for programs*

Code of Regulations, Title 5

11820 *Pregnant minor program*

Civil Code

62 *Description of emancipated minor*

63 *Considered over age of majority for certain purposes*