

CSBA Sample Board Policy

Students

BP 5146(a)

MARRIED/PREGNANT/PARENTING STUDENTS

Note: The following **optional** policy may be revised to reflect district practice.

The Governing Board recognizes that early marriage, pregnancy, or parenting and related responsibilities may disrupt a student's education and increase the chance of a student dropping out of school. The Board therefore desires to support married, pregnant, and parenting students to continue their education, attain strong academic and parenting skills, and promote the healthy development of their children.

(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)
(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)
(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)
(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)
(cf. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)
(cf. 6146.2 - Certificate of Proficiency/High School Equivalency)
(cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 230 and 34 CFR 106.40, practices specified in the following paragraph constitute prohibited discrimination. Any complaint alleging any such practice may be addressed through the district's uniform complaint procedures; see section "Complaints" below.

The district shall not discriminate against any student on the basis of the student's marital status, pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or related recovery. (Education Code 230; 34 CFR 106.40)

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

Note: Pursuant to Family Code 7002, any person under the age of 18 years who enters into a valid marriage is an emancipated minor and therefore has the same rights as an adult. Such rights include, but are not limited to, those related to the verification of student absences (see AR 5113 - Absences and Excuses), access to student records (see AR 5125 - Student Records), and acceptance of employment without a work permit (see AR 5113.2 - Work Permits).

For school-related purposes, a student under the age of 18 years who enters into a valid marriage shall have all the rights and privileges of students who are 18 years old, even if the marriage has been dissolved. (Family Code 7002)

Education and Support Services for Pregnant and Parenting Students

Pregnant and parenting students shall retain the right to participate in any comprehensive school or educational alternative program. The classroom setting shall be the preferred instructional strategy unless an alternative is necessary to meet the needs of the student and/or his/her child.

MARRIED/PREGNANT/PARENTING STUDENTS (continued)

(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)

(cf. 6181 - Alternative Schools/Programs of Choice)

(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)

(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)

Note: Under federal law (34 CFR 106.40), districts cannot require a student to take a course or participate in a separate program or school for pregnant and parenting students; student participation must be voluntary and such programs or schools must be "comparable" to programs and schools offered to other students. State law (5 CCR 4950) requires that any separate educational programs, activities, and courses be "equal" to those that the students would have been in if they were participating in the regular program. The following paragraph reflects the state standard which is more stringent and thus would prevail.

The California Women's Law Center, in Educational Rights of Pregnant and Parenting Teens: Title IX and California State Law Requirements, describes the difficulty in ensuring that alternative programs meet this standard and cites factors that districts should consider in comparisons between the alternative and regular education program. Such factors may include, but are not limited to, the educational benefits provided (i.e., quality, range, and content of curriculum and other services; quality and availability of instructional materials and technology); extracurricular offerings; staff qualifications; geographic accessibility; and the quality, accessibility, and availability of facilities and resources. Because of the difficulty in meeting this standard, the California Women's Law Center cautions that districts must ensure that pregnant students are not pushed or lured into alternative programs through either overt or subtle practices.

Any education program or activity that is offered separately to pregnant students, including any class or extracurricular activity, shall be equal to that offered to other district students. A student's participation in such programs shall be voluntary. (5 CCR 4950)

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

Note: The following paragraph is for use by districts that require any student with a physical or emotional condition requiring a physician's care to provide the physician's certification that the student is able to participate in an educational program or extracurricular activity. Pursuant to 34 CFR 106.40, a physician's certification cannot be required for participation of a student based on pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or related recovery unless the district imposes the same requirement on students with other medical conditions or "temporary disabilities." Thus, the district cannot require a pregnant student to provide a physician's note to participate in physical education classes unless required of all students with temporary medical conditions, but a pregnant student who cannot accomplish the requirements of the regular physical education curriculum may be offered an alternative physical education curriculum.

As required for other students with physical or emotional conditions or temporary disabilities, the Superintendent or designee may require a student, based on pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or related recovery, to obtain certification from a physician indicating that the student is physically and emotionally able to participate in an educational program or activity. (34 CFR 106.40)

Note: Items #1-7 below are **optional** and may be revised to reflect district practice.

MARRIED/PREGNANT/PARENTING STUDENTS (continued)

To the extent feasible, educational and related support services shall be provided, either through the district or in collaboration with community agencies and organizations, to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students and their children. Such services may include, but are not limited to:

Note: The district may choose to offer child care and development services as an incentive to encourage the school attendance of parenting students as provided in item #1 below. Child care and development services are subject to applicable sections of Education Code 8200-8498 and the health and safety requirements of 22 CCR 101151-101239.2 and 101351-101439.1; see BP/AR 5148 - Child Care and Development.

1. Child care and development services for the children of parenting students on or near school site(s) during the school day and during school-sponsored activities

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)
(cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)

2. Parenting education and life skills instruction

Note: The federal Women, Infants, and Children grant program (42 USC 1786; 7 CFR 246.1-246.28) provides funding that may be used for special school nutrition supplements for low-income pregnant and lactating students as provided in item #3 below; see the U.S. Department of Agriculture's web site. Education Code 49553 specifies nutritional standards for these special school nutrition supplements.

3. Special school nutrition supplements for pregnant and lactating students pursuant to Education Code 49553, 42 USC 1786, and 7 CFR 246.1-246.28

(cf. 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)
(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)

4. Health care services, including prenatal care

(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

Note: Health and Safety Code 104460 requires districts receiving Tobacco-Use Prevention Education funds to provide access to tobacco-use prevention and intervention services to pregnant and parenting students; see AR 5131.62 - Tobacco.

5. Tobacco, alcohol, and/or drug prevention and intervention services

(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)
(cf. 5131.62 - Tobacco)

6. Academic and personal counseling

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

MARRIED/PREGNANT/PARENTING STUDENTS (continued)

7. Supplemental instruction to assist students in achieving grade-level academic standards and progressing toward graduation

(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

As appropriate, teachers, administrators, and/or other personnel who work with pregnant and parenting students shall receive related professional development.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

Absences

Note: The California Supreme Court ([American Academy of Pediatrics et al v. Lungren et al](#)) has clarified that students do not need parent/guardian consent before receiving confidential medical services. The Attorney General reached the same conclusion in 87 [Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.](#) 168 (2004). See BP 5113 - Absences and Excuses.

Pregnant or parenting students may be excused for absences related to confidential medical appointments in accordance with BP/AR 5113 - Absences and Excuses.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

The Superintendent or designee shall grant a student a leave of absence due to pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, and related recovery for as long as it is deemed medically necessary by a physician. At the conclusion of the leave, the student shall be reinstated to the status held when the leave began. (34 CFR 106.40)

(cf. 5112.3 - Student Leave of Absence)

Note: Education Code 48410 exempts from compulsory attendance in continuing education classes students who must render personal services to a dependent. The following paragraph allows parenting students in any district school to be absent for this reason and may be revised to reflect district practice.

A parenting student may request exemption from attendance because of personal services that must be rendered to a dependent.

(cf. 5112.1 - Exemptions from Attendance)

Reasonable Accommodations

Note: According to the USDOE pamphlet [Supporting the Academic Success of Pregnant and Parenting Students under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972](#), when necessary to ensure a pregnant student's access to the educational program, the district must make adjustments to the regular program that are

MARRIED/PREGNANT/PARENTING STUDENTS (continued)

reasonable and responsive to the student's pregnancy status. Examples in the USDOE pamphlet include providing a larger desk, allowing frequent trips to the restroom, or permitting temporary access to elevators as necessary. Pursuant to 34 CFR 106.40, the school also must provide any services to pregnant students that it provides to other students with temporary medical conditions, such as at-home instruction or tutoring for students who miss school because of such medical conditions. The USDOE publication lists additional programs and strategies that, although not required by federal law, may assist in addressing the needs of pregnant and parenting students.

When necessary, the district shall provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant and parenting students to enable them to access the educational program.

A pregnant student shall have access to any services available to other students with temporary disabilities or medical conditions. (34 CFR 106.40)

(cf. 6183 - Home and Hospital Instruction)

Note: Education Code 222, as added by AB 302 (Ch. 690, Statutes of 2015), requires a school to offer reasonable accommodations to a lactating student, as specified below, whenever there is at least one lactating student on the campus. Any complaint regarding noncompliance with these provisions may be addressed through the district's uniform complaint procedures; see section "Complaints" below.

For information about accommodations required to be provided to employees, see BP 4033 - Lactation Accommodations.

The school shall provide reasonable accommodations to any lactating student to express breast milk, breastfeed an infant child, or address other needs related to breastfeeding. A student shall not incur an academic penalty for using any of these reasonable accommodations, and shall be provided the opportunity to make up any work missed due to such use. Reasonable accommodations include, but are not limited to: (Education Code 222)

1. Access to a private and secure room, other than a restroom, to express breast milk or breastfeed an infant child
2. Permission to bring onto a school campus a breast pump and any other equipment used to express breast milk
3. Access to a power source for a breast pump or any other equipment used to express breast milk
4. Access to a place to store expressed breast milk safely
5. A reasonable amount of time to accommodate the student's need to express breast milk or breastfeed an infant child

MARRIED/PREGNANT/PARENTING STUDENTS (continued)**Complaints**

Any complaint of discrimination on the basis of pregnancy or marital or parental status shall be addressed through the district's uniform complaint procedures in accordance with 5 CCR 4600-4687 and BP/AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

(*cf.* 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

Note: Education Code 222, as added by AB 302 (Ch. 690, Statutes of 2015), authorizes the use of uniform complaint procedures for any complaint that the district has not complied with requirements to reasonably accommodate a lactating student's needs related to breastfeeding. See section "Reasonable Accommodations" above for related requirements.

Any complaint alleging district noncompliance with the requirements to provide reasonable accommodations for lactating students also may be filed in accordance with the district's procedures in AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures. A complainant who is not satisfied with the district's decision may appeal the decision to the California Department of Education (CDE). If the district or the CDE finds merit in an appeal, the district shall provide a remedy to the affected student. (Education Code 222; 5 CCR 4600-4687)

Program Evaluation

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically report to the Board regarding the effectiveness of district strategies to support married, pregnant, and parenting students, which may include data on participation rates in district programs and services, academic achievement, school attendance, graduation rate, and/or student feedback on district programs and services.

(*cf.* 0500 - Accountability)

(*cf.* 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE

222 Reasonable accommodations; lactating students

230 Sex discrimination

8200-8498 Child Care and Development Services Act

48205 Excused absences

48220 Compulsory education requirement

48410 Persons exempted from continuation classes

49553 Nutrition supplements for pregnant/lactating students

51220.5 Parenting skills and education

51745 Independent study

52610.5 Enrollment of pregnant and parenting students in adult education

Legal Reference continued: (see next page)

MARRIED/PREGNANT/PARENTING STUDENTS (continued)

Legal Reference: (continued)

CIVIL CODE

51 *Unruh Civil Rights Act*

FAMILY CODE

7002 *Description of emancipated minor*

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

104460 *Tobacco prevention services for pregnant and parenting students*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4687 *Uniform complaint procedures*

4950 *Nondiscrimination, marital and parental status*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 22

101151-101239.2 *General licensing requirements for child care centers*

101351-101439.1 *Infant care centers*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1681-1688 *Title IX, Education Act Amendments*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

1786 *Special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 7

246.1-246.28 *Special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

106.40 *Marital or parental status*

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

87 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 168 (2004)*

COURT DECISIONS

American Academy of Pediatrics et al v. Lungren et al (1997) 16 Cal.4th 307

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S LAW CENTER PUBLICATIONS

*Educational Rights of Pregnant and Parenting Teens: Title IX and California State Law Requirements
Pregnant Students and Confidential Medical Services*

The Civil Rights of Pregnant and Parenting Teens in California Schools, 2002

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

*Supporting the Academic Success of Pregnant and Parenting Students under Title IX of the Education
Amendments of 1972, rev. June 2013*

WEB SITES

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

California Women's Law Center: <http://www.cwlc.org/resources>

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Women, Infants, and Children Program: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>