

Education for Pregnant and Parenting Students

Board Policy: SA-9
Adopted: March 8, 1993
Revised: May 10, 2010

I. General Policy Statement

This policy is established to assure that procedures exist which allow the educational needs of pregnant and parenting students to be met while advocating for the health and welfare of the adolescent mother and child with supportive services. Pregnant and parenting students will not be discriminated against or excluded from school or from any program, class or extracurricular activity because they are pregnant or parenting. The goal of each maternity /parenting education plan shall be assured quality instruction culminating in high school graduation.

II. Regulations

- A. Any pregnant student who wants a maternity education plan shall declare her desire to a school counselor. The school counselor shall notify the appropriate school social worker and the principal regarding the request for services. The school social worker will coordinate the development and implementation of the student's maternity education plan in conjunction with the principal and school counselor. This plan shall be submitted to the superintendent for his or her approval.
- B. A student who does not have abnormal or unusual medical problems is expected to attend school until delivery. Maternity leave for a maximum of twenty (20) days following delivery will be granted. When abnormal or unusual medical problems (as documented by a physician) exist before or after delivery, additional days may be granted with the approval of the principal and superintendent.
- C. Students are expected to return to school at the end of their maternity leave or upon release by their physician.
- D. Any student who does not attend school regularly before delivery or who fails to report at the conclusion of the designated maternity leave shall be withdrawn from school if they are over age 16 or emancipated.
- E. Any student who is a custodial parent may request a "parenting education plan" through the school counselor and/or social worker. The school social worker will coordinate the development and implementation of the student's maternity education plan in conjunction with the principal and school counselor. This plan shall be submitted to the superintendent for his or her approval.
- F. Pregnant and parenting students who abide by the regulations set forth in this policy shall be permitted to continue their studies and are eligible to receive credit.
- G. The continuation of the student's program of studies shall be coordinated by a school social worker in the following manner.
 - 1. The social worker will provide the appropriate school counselor with the student maternity leave plan. The school counselor shall obtain the student's assignments and tests from teachers.
 - 2. Teachers shall work cooperatively with the school counselor and social worker to assure that student assignments are made available and satisfactorily completed.
 - 3. The social worker shall be responsible for assuring the delivery of student assignments and work.
 - 4. The social worker shall make referrals regarding appropriate community resources.

Legal Reference: G.S. 115C-375.5