

VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD POLICY NO. 5146

ADOPTED: 09/22/14

CLASSIFICATION: Students

REVISED:

SUBJECT: MARRIED / PREGNANT / PARENTING STUDENTS

The Ventura County Board of Education and County Superintendent recognize that early marriage, pregnancy, or parenting may disrupt a student's education and increase the chance of a student dropping out of school. The Ventura County Office of Education 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.

County Office of Education operated programs 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.

Any education program or activity, including any class or extracurricular activity, that is offered separately to such students shall be comparable to that offered to other students. A student's participation in such programs shall be voluntary.

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

PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS

Pregnant and parenting male or female students shall retain the right to participate in any comprehensive school or educational alternative program or be required to participate in any pregnant student or alternate educational programs. 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.

When necessary, reasonable accommodations shall be provided 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. A lactating student shall have access to a private location, other than a restroom, to breastfeed or express milk for her infant child.

A student may be required, based on her pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or related recovery, to obtain certification from a physician indicating that she is physically and emotionally able to participate in an educational program or activity, if other students with physical or emotional conditions or temporary disabilities are required to provide such certification.

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

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

A pregnant or parenting student also may request exemption from attendance because of a related physical or mental condition or because of personal services that must be rendered to a dependent.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

230	Sex discrimination
48205	Excused absences
48220	Compulsory education requirement
48410	Persons exempted from continuation classes
51745	Independent study
52610.5	Enrollment of pregnant and parenting students in adult education
54740-54749	Cal-SAFE program for pregnant/parenting students and their children

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4687	Uniform complaint procedures
4950	Nondiscrimination, marital and parental status

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1681-1688	Title IX, Education Act Amendments
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CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

106.40	Marital or parental status
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Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S LAW CENTER PUBLICATIONS

Educational Rights of Pregnant and Parenting Teens: Title IX and California State Law Requirements

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>

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