



How Well are Your Schools Serving Pregnant and Parenting Students?

This assessment may be used to help you determine how well your schools are supporting the educational needs of pregnant and parenting students and provide an indication of how well you may be adhering to both the letter and spirit of Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, the federal civil rights law that prohibits sex discrimination in education.

To conduct this assessment, we suggest that you 1) locate your district’s policy manual to determine what the written policies are; and 2) interview staff and students to learn about any unwritten policies and determine what goes on in practice. Note that written and unwritten policies might contradict one another, which is cause for concern.

| | Unwritten protocol/policy | None: Each case different | Official written policy |
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| School Attendance | | | |
| Absences for medical reasons related to pregnancy and all related conditions are excused, without penalty, for as long as the student’s physician deems it medically necessary | | | |
| After a pregnancy-related leave of absence, the student is automatically returned to the status the student held prior to the leave, and is given an opportunity to make up the work missed. | | | |
| Requirements for making up missed work due to pregnancy-related absences are the same as or better than those for other illnesses | | | |
| Pregnant and parenting students are permitted to attend classes unless medical reasons prohibit | | | |
| School assumes that pregnant students can continue attending school and participating in activities unless presented with doctor’s note to the contrary. This note is not required at the outset unless such a note is required of all students with temporary medical conditions requiring medical treatment. | | | |
| Ability to Keep Up with School Work | | | |
| In-home tutoring or other forms of instruction are offered for pregnant students on bed rest | | | |
| In-home tutoring or other forms of instruction are offered for postpartum students recovering at home for as long as a her physician deems medically necessary | | | |
| Students on medical leave for childbirth, pregnancy, abortion or miscarriage are not required to repeat a grade or courses | | | |

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| Child-Related Absences (e.g. child doctor visits; child's school conferences, etc.) | | | |
| Child-related absences are excused without penalty for custodial parent(s) | | | |
| Child-related absences are excused without penalty for noncustodial parent | | | |
| Requirements for making up work for child-related absences are the same as or better than those for other illness-related absences | | | |
| Physical Accommodations | | | |
| Appropriate accommodations are made for pregnant students as needed (e.g. chairs without attached desks; ability to use restroom when needed; etc.) | | | |
| Student is not prohibited from bringing child to school building | | | |
| Physical Education & Sports | | | |
| Healthy pregnant students are permitted to engage in physical education and athletic activities | | | |
| A doctor's note for pregnant student participation in physical activities is only required if same is required of all students with medical conditions | | | |
| Pregnant students may be excused from physical education and athletic activities if medically necessary | | | |
| Students who are Lactating | | | |
| Accommodations are made for lactating students to express milk at school | | | |
| Parenting Programs | | | |
| Both male and female students are permitted to attend school parenting programs or classes offered to student parents | | | |
| Extracurricular Activities | | | |
| Pregnant and parenting students are not excluded from participation in extracurricular activities | | | |
| Students who have had an abortion are not excluded from participation in extracurricular activities | | | |
| Accommodations are made for pregnant and parenting student participation in extracurricular activities that are the same as those for others with temporary disabilities | | | |
| Students are not required to sign an agreement not to get pregnant in order to participate in activities | | | |
| Pregnant students are not penalized for becoming pregnant or having been pregnant in the past or for having an abortion or miscarriage | | | |
| Gender Equity | | | |
| School recognizes the importance of both student fathers and student mothers being involved in their children's lives and affords equal opportunities with respect to parenting to both genders | | | |

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| Honors, Awards, and Elections | | | |
| Pregnant and parenting students are not excluded from academic, extracurricular, athletic or peer recognition honors, awards or ceremonies, or from holding officer positions | | | |
| Pregnant and parenting students are permitted to run for and serve in office (such as class president, student government) | | | |
| School Choice | | | |
| Students are permitted to continue attendance at current school | | | |
| Students are informed about, but not actively encouraged, to attend a special or alternative school or participate in a special program, if applicable | | | |
| Alternative schools or programs that include pregnant and parenting students have curricula that meet the rigorous standards required for college entry and success | | | |
| Students attending alternative schools are offered the same range of educational opportunities as those offered to students in originating schools | | | |
| Academic Rigor | | | |
| Pregnant and parenting students are encouraged to take coursework designed for the highest level of challenge they are capable | | | |
| Pregnant and parenting students are permitted to enroll in college prep, AP, International Baccalaureate, magnet, and honors courses and programs | | | |
| Pregnant and parenting students can attend any school in which they were enrolled or would have been enrolled, prior to the student's pregnancy | | | |
| Pregnant and parenting students are encouraged to pursue postsecondary educational opportunities and are given guidance in exploring their options | | | |
| Pregnant and parenting students are offered educational and career mentoring opportunities and/or peer groups, whether during school hours or after school | | | |
| Supports for Student Parents | | | |
| Pregnant and parenting students are given appropriate referrals and resources by school support staff | | | |
| Student fathers as well as student mothers are offered supportive services | | | |
| School has established community partnerships that provide needed services to students on or near campus (such as health care, social services, ECFE, day care, etc.) | | | |
| Transportation for parenting students accommodates day care transportation needs | | | |
| Parenting/life skills classes are offered for credit during the school day | | | |
| Child care is available at or near school for student parents | | | |

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| Students are given assistance in finding quality, affordable child care options | | | |
| School Climate | | | |
| Pregnant and parenting students are not harassed or bullied at school | | | |
| Staff is responsive to complaints from pregnant and parenting students of harassment or bullying | | | |
| School makes an effort to create a positive school climate for pregnant and parenting students, and addresses discrimination against, harassment, and stigmatization of pregnant and parenting students | | | |
| Pregnant and parenting students are encouraged to stay in school and succeed, and are not stigmatized, encouraged to leave, or pushed out | | | |
| Outreach | | | |
| Proactive efforts are made to assist pregnant and parenting students with excessive absences and to re-enroll pregnant or parenting teenagers who have dropped out of school | | | |
| Complaints | | | |
| Schools do not retaliate against students or staff for revealing or complaining of possible discrimination based on a student's pregnant or parenting status | | | |

**All school districts are required by law to have a Title IX Coordinator. Who is your Title IX Coordinator?
Is this person aware of Title IX requirements with respect to pregnant and parenting students?**

Name _____

Contact information _____

Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Students

If your school receives federal funding, you are required by law to comply with Title IX. In addition, state law requires schools to comply with the Minnesota Human Rights Act, which similarly makes it illegal to discriminate on the basis of gender.

However, it is important to also consider the fact that simply **not discriminating** is not the same as **supporting**. Research has shown that support for teen parents can help both them and their children thrive. While some schools may not have the resources to provide all of the services needed by pregnant and parenting students and their children, schools can help coordinate those services for students by partnering with community-based organizations, day care centers, and public health, nursing, and social services agencies.

Interview some pregnant and parenting students in your district. Find out what their experiences have been and how the schools they attend support and/or set barriers to meeting their needs.

Needs:

Barriers:

Interview school staff. When a student reveals a pregnancy, which school staff are most commonly notified? What referrals are typically offered? How do staff members handle the students? What attitudes are prevalent among staff?

What resources are available in your community for pregnant and parenting students? Are the organizations offering supportive services receptive to partnering with your school or district?

Are there spaces in the school building or times of the school day that could be utilized for coordinated efforts to provide support for teen parents?

After you have completed your assessment, please contact MOAPPP to discuss what you learned and to become part of the effort to make positive change for adolescent parents in Minnesota.

Contact: Sue Fust, Adolescent Parent Program Manager

sue@moapp.org

651 644-1447 ext. 15