

PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS

The Board of Trustees is committed to programs that serve all students. To assist students that are at risk of not completing a high school diploma, it is sometimes necessary to provide programs that are tailored to the unique needs of students. Pregnant and parenting teenagers are often at risk of dropping out of high school. However, the Board believes that pregnancy and parenting should not be barriers to educational success and graduation. Indeed, pregnant and parenting teenagers have a special need for an educational experience that leads to a high school diploma while also helping the student to assume adult responsibilities and prepare for an economically self-sufficient future. The Board of Trustees is committed to providing a comprehensive, continuous, community-linked program for pregnant and parenting students and their children that reflects the cultural and linguistic diversity of the community. To serve the educational needs of pregnant and parenting students, the Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to create and maintain a teenage pregnancy and parenting program.

The teenage pregnancy and parenting program will be available to any District student in need of the program's services. However, participation in the program shall be on a voluntary basis. Pregnant or parenting students shall have the option of enrolling in regular high school classes or alternative programs available to all District students.

The instructional program shall be determined on a case-by-case basis and shall be appropriate to the student's individual needs. In addition to providing a curriculum to foster student academic success and progress toward graduation, the student's experience will also include instruction in health, prenatal and postnatal care, preparation for childbirth and parenting, home economics, consumer education, child development, money management, and employable skills.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish administrative rules and regulations to implement the pregnant and parenting students' policy.

Reference: Education Code Sections 2551.3, 8900, 8901, 48410(c), 49558, 49559, California Administrative Code Title 5 Section 11820

Policy adopted: February 4, 1997; September 11, 2001