

**MARRIED/PREGNANT/PARENTING STUDENTS**

The Governing Board recognizes that early marriage, pregnancy or parenting may disrupt a student's education and increase the chance of a student dropping out of school. The Board therefore desires to provide instruction and services designed to assist in pregnancy prevention. The Board also desires to support male and female expectant and parenting students to attain strong academic and parenting skills and to promote the healthy development of their children.

- (cf. 5113.1 – Chronic Absence and Truancy)*
- (cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)*
- (cf. 5149 - At-Risk Students)*
- (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)*

Married, expectant and parenting students shall have the same educational and extracurricular opportunities as all students. Participation in special programs or schools shall be voluntary.

- (cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)*
- (cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)*
- (cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)*

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; 20 USC 1681-1688)

- (cf. 0410 – Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)*
- (cf. 5127 – Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)*

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 district students. A student's participation in such programs shall be voluntary (34 CFR 106.40)

- (cf. 6142.7 – Physical Education and Activity)*
- (cf. 6145 – Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)*

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)*

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

For school-related purposes, married students under the age of 18 are emancipated minors and have all the rights and privileges of students who are 18, even if the marriage has been dissolved. (Family Code 7002)

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)*

### **Pregnant and Parenting Students**

The Board is committed to providing to expectant and parenting students and their children a comprehensive, continuous, community-linked program that reflects the cultural and linguistic diversity of the community.

Pregnant and parenting students retain the right to participate in any comprehensive school or educational alternative programs. School placement and instructional strategies for participating students shall be based on the needs and learning styles of individual students. 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. (Education Code 54745)

*(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)*

*(cf. 6181 – Alternative Schools/Programs of Choice)*

*(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)*

*(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)*

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. A lactating student shall have access to a private location, other than a restroom, to breastfeed or express milk for her infant child.

*(cf. 6183 – Home and Hospital Instruction)*

In addition to providing a quality education program for expectant and parenting students, the district's program shall provide parenting education and life skills instruction, special school nutrition supplements for pregnant and lactating students, and a child care and development program on or near the school site for the children of enrolled students. The district's program may provide other support services authorized by Education Code 54746 as necessary to meet the needs of students and their children. (Education Code 54745)

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

*(cf. 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)*  
*(cf. 5141.6 - Student Health and Social Services)*  
*(cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)*  
*(cf. 5148.1 - Child Care Services for Parenting Students)*  
*(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)*

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)*

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 her physician. At the conclusion of the leave, the student shall be reinstated to the status she held when the leave began. (34 CFR 106.40)

*(cf. 5112.3 – Student Leave of Absence)*

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. (Education Code 48410)

*(cf. 5112.1 – Exemptions from Attendance)*

**Pregnancy Prevention Program**

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that age-appropriate, culturally sensitive and community-sensitive instruction and services are available to assist in the prevention of pregnancy among minors. The district’s program shall be based on strategies that have proven effective in delaying the onset of sexual activity and reducing the incidence of pregnancy among school-age youth. Instruction shall be consistent with the district’s family life/sex education curriculum.

*(cf. 5141.25 - Availability of Condoms)*  
*(cf. 6142.1 - Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction)*  
*(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)*  
*(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)*

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

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

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

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*

54740-54749 *Cal-SAFE program for pregnant/parenting students and their children*

FAMILY CODE

7002 *Description of emancipated minor*

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

104460 *Tobacco prevention services for pregnant and parenting students*

124175-124200 *Adolescent and Family Life Act*

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 nutritional program for women, infants, and children*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 7

246.1-246.28 *Special supplemental nutritional 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.4<sup>th</sup> 307*

*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>*

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

*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>*

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

Policy  
Adopted: September 1, 2005  
Revised: April 16, 2015

**VACAVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Vacaville, California