

## **Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of North Carolina FAQ on Federal and NC State Laws**

### **Access and Non-Discrimination**

1. Are pregnant and parenting students given the right to attend school?
2. Do school policies or practices discriminate in any way against P+P students?
3. Has local board of education adopted or revised policies to ensure that P&P students are not discriminated against or excluded from any school or program, or extracurricular activity because pregnant or a parent, as indicated in NC state law?.
4. Who is the local Title IX Coordinator to contact with concerns?

### **Equivalent Educational Instruction & Voluntary Enrollment in Alternative School**

1. Are pregnant and parenting students receiving the same educational instruction or its equivalent as other students?
2. If an alternative educational program or school is suggested for pregnant or parenting student, is it clear that this is completely VOLUNTARY.
3. Is the alternative educational program comparable in quality and academic offerings to regular academic curriculum?
4. Does the district provide any programs to meet the special scheduling and curriculum needs of pregnant and parenting students?

### **Attendance Policies**

1. Is student granted excused absences for pregnancy and related conditions for length of time student's doctor finds medically necessary?
2. Are absences due to the illness or medical appointment for the teen parent's child included in attendance policies?
3. When a student returns to school after a medically necessary absence is she restored to the academic and extracurricular status she held when the leave began?

### **Homebound Instruction**

1. What is the district's Homebound Instruction policy & how is it being implemented?
2. Is homework & make-up work made available so students have the opportunity to keep current with assignments & avoid losing course credit due to absences?
3. To the extent necessary, is a homebound teacher assigned?

### **Use of At-Risk Student Funds**

1. Is school administration aware that they "shall use, as needed, supplemental funds from the At-Risk Student Services allotment to support programs for pregnant and parenting students?"
2. Find out if this fund could be a source for support programs, e.g. support groups, tutors, transportation, & child care – the latter two being primary barriers to school attendance.

### **Special Allowances**

1. Is a health service or insurance coverage offered to other students with temporary disabilities also offered to pregnant and parenting students?
2. Are pregnant and parenting students provided with appropriate allowances when needed, such as larger desks and bathroom breaks?

## **Support Services**

Federal and State laws do not mandate support services that make it possible for pregnant and parenting students to attend school. Review the dropout prevention services needed in your school and community and work with others to find resources that help teen parents attend school and graduate.

- Apply for At-Risk Student Funds to fund critical needs, e.g. **child care centers/homes** for infants and toddlers, **transportation** to and from child care and school, and **subsidies** for both. Schools may offer parent support groups, parent education, and child development classes and space in the school for teen parent programs to meet with participants. Dropout Prevention staff, school social workers, counselors and nurses are key resources providing guidance, class scheduling, and referral to community support services. Reentry services have been effective retrieving pregnant and parenting students who have dropped out of school.
- Collaborate with social services and health agencies to ensure pregnant and parenting students have access to health care, financial assistance, child care, home visiting and case management services. When students receive this support, they are better able to attend and complete school, while managing the responsibility for their children. With support, students can return to school, graduate, acquire more education and job training, and become competent parents and part of an educated workforce.

A school that follows the above steps can increase the chances that pregnant and parenting students will remain in school.

## **Sample Policies from NC Local Education Agencies (LEA):**

### **Access and Non-Discrimination**

Pregnant and parenting students shall have the right to attend school.

The Orange County board of Education ensures that pregnant and parenting students are not discriminated against or excluded from school or any program, class or extracurricular activity because they are pregnant or parenting students.

### **Equivalent Educational Instruction & Voluntary Enrollment in Alternative School**

The board expects pregnant and parenting students to have the same educational opportunities or its equivalent as other students.

### **Attendance**

The attendance status of pregnant students shall be determined by the student and her physician. At conclusion of medical absence for pregnancy, student shall be reinstated to status she held when medical leave began. All documented absences incurred by parenting students due to their child's illness or medical appointments shall be excused absences.

### **Homebound Instruction**

Homebound instruction services shall be made available to pregnant students up to two (2) weeks prior to due date and six (6) weeks after delivery. Exceptions to these timelines will be considered only when student's physician has placed her on "bed rest."

### **Use of At-Risk Student Funds**

To support programs and activities that assist pregnant and parenting students to remain and succeed in school, the use of At-Risk Student Services funds shall be used as needed.