

SUPPORT AND IMPROVE THE EDUCATIONAL OUTCOME OF PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS

FILE: IHBCA-R1

A. Procedures

1. Attendance and Lawful Absences

- a. Students will be lawfully excused for any pregnancy or parenting related conditions, including absences for:
 1. Labor
 2. Delivery
 3. Recovery
 4. Prenatal and postnatal medical appointments
- b. Pregnant or parenting students will be allowed at least 10 days of excused absences after the birth of the student's child.
- c. Pregnant or parenting students will be allowed excused absences due to the illness or medical appointment of the student's child, including up to four days per year for which the school may not require a note from a physician.
- d. In addition, pregnant or parenting students will be allowed excused absences for legal appointments related to family law proceedings, including adoption, custody, and visitation.
- e. Parenting students will be excused from class due to the use of a lactation space to nurse or express milk.

2. Make Up Work

- a. Beyond home and hospital teaching, pregnant and parenting students may be allowed to make up work in other ways by:
 1. Retaking a semester
 2. Participating in an online course credit recovery program
 3. Allowing the student up to six weeks to continue at the same pace and finish at a later date
- b. Students will consult with school counselors to discuss options for making up missed work.
 1. Consultation with school counselors to discuss options for making up missed work. All options should be considered, including summer and night school, tutors, dual enrollment, Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities (MVLO) courses, and other credit recovery programs.

3. Lactation

- a. Each high school will provide a private lactation space in the school.
- b. The lactation space will include at least one seating option with a flat surface.
- c. The lactation space will include an electrical outlet nearby to accommodate placement of a breast pump device.
- d. The lactation space may not be a bathroom or a closet.
- e. The lactating student will have access to a refrigerator located close to the private lactation space.

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FILE: IHBCA-R2

4. Support for Students

- a. At least one staff member shall be designated to connect pregnant and parenting students with the follow resources:
 - 1. Safe, affordable, and reliable childcare,
 - 2. Early education services, and
 - 3. Transportation services to and from school.

5. Training and Publication

- a. ACPS will provide training of school personnel on this policy.
- b. ACPS will publish the policy in the school system's student handbook.

6. Resources for Schools and Students

- a. Section 7-301.1 of the Education Article, Education-Pregnant and Parenting Students <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=ged§ion=7-301.1&enactments=False&archived=False>
- b. Section 4-139 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland (Chapter 438) - *Maryland's Model Policy to Support the Educational and Parenting Goals and Improve the Educational Outcomes of Pregnant and Parenting Students* https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/chapters_noln/Ch_346_sb0438T.pdf
- c. Maryland Department of Health Maternal and Child Health Bureau <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/mch/Pages/home.aspx>
- d. Maryland Department of Health Medicaid eligibility <https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Apply%20for%20Medicaid.aspx>
- e. Maryland Department of Health-Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) <https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/chp/pages/home.aspx>
- f. Maryland State Department of Education Division of Early Childhood, Office of Child Care <https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/office-child-care>
- g. Maryland Department of Human Services <https://dhs.maryland.gov/>
- h. 2-2-1 Health and Human Services Community Resources (Maryland) <https://211md.org/>

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