

# PREGNANT & PARENTING STUDENTS



## **Do I have the right to stop attending school because I am pregnant or after childbirth?**

**NO.** You must remain enrolled in school until you graduate from high school, receive a G.E.D or turn 18 years of age.

## **Do I have the right to stay in my same school while I am pregnant or after childbirth?**

**YES.** You have the right to stay in your same school and participate in all school activities, including sports, physical education, school dances and graduation. You also have a right to change schools and enroll in continuation, independent study, a G.E.D. program, or adult educational classes. Staying or changing schools is your choice.

## **Can my school require me to enroll into a parenting student program at my school?**

**NO.** A school may offer programs for pregnant and parenting students, like Cal-SAFE, but participation in those programs must be completely voluntary.

## **Can I remain in regular school but use the childcare services available at a continuation school?**

**YES.** You have a right to remain in your regular school. If your school district offers childcare services through a pregnant and parenting program, you can enroll your child as long as you meet the enrollment criteria.

## **Can my school treat me differently because I am pregnant or have a child?**

**NO.** Your school cannot treat you differently if you are pregnant, if you end a pregnancy, or if you have a child. You cannot be denied participation in a class, course, or school activity for any of these reasons.

## **Do I have the right to keep my pregnancy private?**

**YES.** Your school cannot draw public attention or reveal your pregnancy without your permission.

## **Can I request special educational services, like homebound instruction, while I am pregnant or during childbirth?**

**YES.** If your school provides special services to students with a temporary medical condition, it must also provide the same services to pregnant students and those recovering for childbirth related conditions. This may include homebound instruction and tutoring.

## **Can I be excused from school because I am sick during or after my pregnancy?**

**YES.** If you are absent from school because you are sick or have a doctor's appointment, your absences will be considered excused. Make sure to notify your school with the reason for your absence.

You are not required to provide a doctor's note for your illness, unless the school requires that all students provide a doctor's note.

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MY SCHOOL MY RIGHTS KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

CONTINUED

**Can I be excused from school because my child is sick or to take him/her to a doctor's appointment?**

**YES.** Your absence will be considered excused. Make sure to have a parent or guardian notify your school with the reason for your absence.

**Can I make up schoolwork that I missed due to an excused absence?**

**YES.**

**Can I be excused from class for a confidential medical appointment?**

**YES.** Your school must excuse you from class to access sensitive health care services without your parent's consent or knowledge. Sensitive health care services include: STI and pregnancy testing appointments, prenatal care, as well as substance abuse, mental health appointments, etc. You must notify your school before the appointment.



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