

Separate Schools and Programs for Expecting and Parenting Students

Separate schools and programs can be created for students who are expecting a child and students who are parenting. School districts CANNOT force a student expecting a child or parenting to attend a separate school or program because of their status as an expecting or parenting student. It is the student's choice whether or not to attend a separate school or program. Students expecting a child or parenting cannot be forced to go on homebound study.



Separate schools and programs are required to give the student expecting a child or parenting the same opportunities as other schools or programs. Expecting and parenting students must have the same access to extracurricular activities, sports, and academic support as students who are not expecting or parenting.

If you or your child is having issues at school or is facing discrimination based on pregnancy or parenting a child, please call us for assistance.



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EXPECTING AND PARENTING STUDENTS

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Schools and Programs for Students

Schools cannot treat expecting or parenting students differently than other students. Treating expecting and parenting students differently is prohibited by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §1681 et. seq. All schools that receive federal funding must comply with Title IX.



Extracurricular Activities

Schools cannot exclude expecting or parenting students from extracurricular activities. Schools cannot make expecting or parenting students provide a doctor's note to participate in activities unless the school makes all students who are seeing a doctor for a physical or emotional condition provide a doctor's note to join the activity.

Schools cannot force an expecting or parenting student out of honors classes, school clubs, honor societies, after school programs, student leadership positions, band membership, or sports.

Attendance Policy for Expecting and Parenting Students

In New Mexico, public schools are required to provide **at least ten days of medical absences** during the school year for a student who provides documentation of the birth of their child, and must provide **four days of excused absences that can be used for any reason** for a student who provides appropriate documentation of pregnancy or that the student is the parent of a child under the age of thirteen needing care. The school shall provide time for the student to make up schoolwork missed during the absence.

Missed Assignments



Since missing assignments comes with missing school, schools are required to allow an expecting or parenting student to make up missed work when the absences are excused. Students have the same number of days to make up work as they were out of class. The student will be given enough time to complete any missed assignments.

Additional Assistance Available for Expecting and Parenting Students

Schools are required to treat pregnant students like all other temporarily disabled students, and they should receive the same special services. These services may include assistance, such as a personal tutor.