

SENECA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: PREGNANT/MARRIED
STUDENTS

ADOPTED:

REVISED:

<p>1. Purpose Title 22 Sec. 12.1 SC 1326</p> <p>2. Authority</p> <p>3. Guidelines</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">234. PREGNANT/MARRIED STUDENTS</p> <p>No student, whether married or unmarried, who is otherwise eligible to attend district schools shall be denied an educational program solely because of pregnancy, childbirth, pregnancy-related disabilities, or actual or potential parenthood; nor shall a pregnant student under the age of seventeen (17) be excused from the requirements of compulsory attendance solely for reasons of pregnancy or maternity.</p> <p>The Board is committed and dedicated to the task of providing the best education possible for every student in the district for as long as s/he can profit from attendance and his/her conduct is compatible with the welfare of the group.</p> <p>Under this guiding philosophy, the Board shall establish guidelines and guiding principles pertaining to married students and pregnant girls.</p> <p><u>Married Students</u></p> <p>It shall be the policy of the Board and staff to strongly advise students against marriage until after completion of their high school education. It shall be pointed out to the students that marriage is a very serious and important step in life and should not be taken lightly and without due consideration to the added responsibilities it imposes upon both parties.</p> <p>A solid foundation upon which a successful marriage can be built includes, among other things, some degree of financial independence, a home of one's own, and free from the constant concern and dependence upon parents. Students in high school will find it difficult, if not impossible, to possess these important factors for a successful, early marriage. The added responsibilities of marriage will make it difficult to gain the educational benefits of the total school program.</p> <p>1. Students who are married must declare their married status at the time of marriage or at the time of enrollment in school.</p>
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2. Married students shall have the same educational opportunities in the district as unmarried students. This includes extracurricular activities and school-sponsored activities.
3. Married students shall be subject to the same rules and regulations that prevail for the entire student body. Married students shall be subject to the same action as unmarried students in the event of infractions.
4. If a married student is to be excused from any activity, the request shall be presented in writing to the principal where a decision shall be based upon the specific condition which may make the exclusion appropriate. The exclusion shall not be for reason of marriage alone.

Pregnant Students

Pregnant girls shall be permitted to remain in their regular school program as long as their physical and emotional condition permits. An individual decision is necessary to determine what is in the best interest of each student. The girl's parents and physician should be consulted in developing the educational plan to fit her needs. As in other school matters, the final decision will rest upon the judgment of the principal who will consider all the factors involved in the administration of this policy.

1. Medical Objectives

In order that the school district may carry out its responsibilities to the student, the following procedures shall be followed:

- a. The pregnant student shall inform the principal, who in turn will inform the school nurse or guidance counselor of her condition as soon as it becomes known.
- b. The school nurse shall receive at reasonable intervals a special health report which provides the physician's confirmation in two (2) areas:
 - 1). Verification that the student is receiving prenatal care.
 - 2). Identification of any limitations or special conditions which the school should observe.
- c. Excusal from attendance.
 - 1). Pregnancy in itself does not exempt the student or parents from the compulsory attendance laws.

- 2). If a student is prevented from attending school because of illness or complications associated with pregnancy, a doctor's statement to this effect will be required.
- 3). In cases of normal pregnancy, only the physician's statement shall be reasons for discontinuing attendance prior to birth of the child and resuming attendance after the birth.
- 4). Cases of spontaneous abortion occurring in school shall be treated as emergencies with the student being sent directly to the hospital and parents informed in accordance with existing emergency procedures.

The fetus shall be sent with the patient and other decisions pertaining thereto shall be made by the parents and/or physician.

2. Social-Emotional Objective

- a. The school shall use any appropriate resource, especially the school nurse and counselor, to help the student deal with emotional problems that may be associated with the pregnancy.

3. Educational Objective

In order that the school may assist the pregnant student in pursuing her education through and after the pregnancy, the following procedures shall be followed:

- a. If the student is excused by a physician's statement because of specific illness or complication she will be provided home instruction.
- b. Reasonable adjustment will be made in the student's program and schedule to comply with special conditions stipulated by the physician on the special health report.
- c. The school will make reasonable provisions to prevent postponement or delay in the student's educational program as a result of absence for the birth of the child. Since this absence is predictable, individual arrangements should be made for completion of as much work as possible before the absence, as well as a plan for whatever make-up work may be necessary after the absence.
- d. If, during the period of pregnancy, she wishes to continue her education outside of the school facility, it is the family's responsibility to provide the tuition payments and to facilitate communications between the district and the outside agency or school.

These guidelines are intended to help the student who wishes to continue her education. If the parent(s) choose to have the student withdraw from school, these factors must be considered:

1. The pregnant student is subject to compulsory attendance laws and regulations.
2. Withdrawal from school must be accomplished under existing provisions. There are no special rules for the withdrawal of a pregnant student.