

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
**POLICY 9100**  
**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR**  
**PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS**

Effective: July 1, 2008

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**I. Policy Statement**

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to provide appropriate educational programs for pregnant students in accordance with state regulations and Title IX requirements. The Board further recognizes the school system's responsibility to support parenting students and encourage them to continue their education.

**II. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction regarding educational programs for pregnant and parenting students.

**III. Definitions**

- A. Educational Program – For purposes of this policy, educational program includes instruction, counseling, social services, and psychological services as needed.
- B. Parenting Student – A student who is either the biological father or mother of a child.

**IV. Standards**

- A. In accordance with Title IX, schools may not discriminate against an enrolled student in academic or non-academic activities because of pregnancy, birth of a child, false pregnancy, miscarriage, or termination of pregnancy.
- B. A student who is pregnant and who has not completed a high school education may elect to remain in the regular school program and may not be involuntarily excluded from any part of this program. If the student is under compulsory school age, the student may voluntarily withdraw from the regular school program provided that she enrolls in an appropriate educational program. Decisions regarding modifying the regular school program or providing an appropriate alternative education program as outlined in Standard C will be reached in joint consultation with the student; parent or spouse; and appropriate educational, medical, and paramedical personnel.

- C. Appropriate educational programs offered through the school system include, but are not limited to:
  - 1. Continuation of the regular school program (modified based on individual health-related needs)
  - 2. Enrollment in a special school or special class for pregnant students, e.g., the system's regional program for pregnant and parenting students
  - 3. Home and hospital teaching
  - 4. Alternative education programs.
- D. It is the responsibility of the school system working with the home to cooperate with other state and local agencies, such as health, welfare, and juvenile services and with private physicians or agencies to ensure that the pregnant student receives proper medical, psychological, and social services during and following the pregnancy.
- E. Parenting students may elect to remain in the regular school program and may not be involuntarily excluded from any part of this program.

#### **V. Compliance**

The Office of Student Services is responsible for ensuring that pregnant and parenting students are informed of their rights under this policy.

#### **VI. Delegation of Authority**

The Superintendent is authorized to develop appropriate procedures for the implementation of this policy.

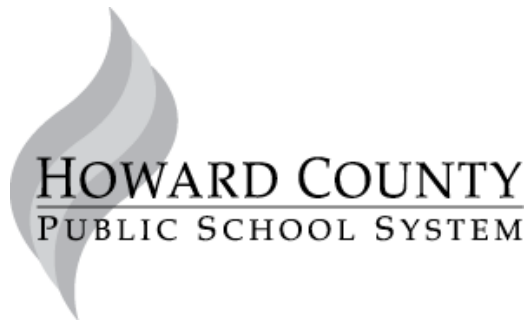
#### **IV. References**

- A. Legal
  - Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
  - COMAR 13A.08.01.06, Educational Programs for Pregnant Girls
- B. Other Board Policies
  - Policy 1030 Child Abuse and Neglect
  - Policy 9000 Enrollment, Residency, Student Assignment and Admission to Pre-K and K
  - Policy 9010 Attendance
  - Policy 9050 Student Records and Confidentiality

ADOPTED: August 3, 1971

AMENDED: September 13, 1990

January 10, 2008  
EFFECTIVE: July 1, 2008



**POLICY 9100-PR**  
IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES  
**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR**  
**PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS**

Effective: July 1, 2008

**I. Confidentiality and Disclosure**

- A. Under Policy 9050, Student Records and Confidentiality, when there is a risk to the student or others, information shared in confidence by students to staff will be divulged to principals, to others who by their training or licensure are able to provide immediate appropriate assistance, and to parents except as outlined in Policy 1030, Child Abuse and Neglect. Pregnancy is considered information which must be divulged in accordance with this policy and these procedures.
- B. An employee who has reason to believe that a student is pregnant should notify the school counselor and/or nurse, who, following confirmation, will notify the principal as needed to modify the educational program. Employees should immediately also consider whether child abuse is an issue. If so, Policy 1030, Child Abuse and Neglect, must be followed, including all reporting requirements.

**II. Educational Decision-Making**

- A. If the school counselor and/or nurse receives a report that a student may be pregnant, the counselor or nurse will meet with the student, alert the student to disclosure requirements and confer with the student to confirm the pregnancy. If the student confirms the pregnancy and the parent(s) have not been informed, the counselor and/or nurse will assist the student in informing the parent(s).
- B. The school counselor and nurse should work collaboratively with pregnant or parenting students (or students who reportedly may be pregnant) to:
  - 1. Communicate student rights under this policy
  - 2. Ensure that the student(s), parent(s) and/or spouse, other student services staff, instructional staff, and health care providers as appropriate are consulted in decision-making regarding possible program modifications or alternative educational programs
  - 3. Outline types of support available through the school system and associated eligibility guidelines
  - 4. Provide appropriate community resource information regarding educational programs
  - 5. Provide assistance in accessing programs and resources.

- C. Modification of the regular program for pregnant or parenting students requires prior approval of the principal/designee.

### **III. Other Support Services**

- A. The nurse, in consultation with the school counselor, should consider the following when developing a support plan:
  - 1. The student's age and developmental level
  - 2. Whether child/sexual abuse or criminal assault is involved
  - 3. The student's parent(s) awareness of the pregnancy and their level of support
  - 4. The student's access to health care.
- B. Health staff will provide in-school support as appropriate.
- C. Following parental notification, referrals for appropriate services to the local health department may be made, particularly if the student has no access to health care.
- D. Student services staff will cooperate as appropriate with other state and local agencies, such as health, welfare, and juvenile services and with private physicians or agencies to ensure that the pregnant student receives proper medical, psychological, and social services during and following the pregnancy.

### **IV. Educational Programs**

- A. High school students seeking to enroll in the regional program for pregnant and parenting students (available to both male and female students) should be referred to the program facilitator. Students should be made aware that both a regional center and outreach services in the home school are offered.
- B. Students requesting alternative education programs, such as Evening School, as an option to comprehensive programming should be referred to the Alternative Education Coordinator.
- C. Students requesting Home and Hospital services before or after delivery should be referred to the Home and Hospital Teaching Office.

ADOPTED: September 13, 1990  
AMENDED: January 10, 2008  
EFFECTIVE: July 1, 2008