



## **Student Policies BP 21-19**

### **Board Policy: Married/Expectant/Parenting Students**

Gateway Community Charters (GCC) recognizes that early marriage, pregnancy or parenting may disrupt a student's education and increase the chance of a student dropping out of school. The GCC Board therefore desires to provide instruction and services designed to assist in pregnancy prevention. The GCC Board also desires to support expectant and parenting students to attain strong academic and parenting skills and to promote the health development of their children.

The GCC applies no rule concerning a student's actual or potential parental, family or marital status that treats students differently on the basis of sex.

(5 CCR §4950; 34 CFR § 106.40(a))

The GCC does not exclude or deny any student from any educational program or activity solely on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom.

(5 CCR § 4950(a); 34 CFR § 106.40(b)(1))

Pregnant students and parenting male or female students are not excluded from participation in their regular school programs or required to participate in pregnant-student programs or alternative educational programs.

(5CCR § 4950(c); 34 CFR § 106.40(b)(1))

Pregnant/parenting students who voluntarily participate in alternative programs are given educational programs, activities and courses equal to the regular program.

(5CCR § 4950(c); 34 CFR § 106.40(b)(3))

The GCC treats pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy and recovery therefrom in the same manner and under the same policies as any other temporary disability.

(5CCR § 4950(d); 34 CFR § 106.40(b)(4))

In addition, for school-related purposes, married students under the age of eighteen (18) are emancipated minors and have all the rights and privileges of a student who is 18, even if the marriage has been dissolved.

## Expectant and Parenting Students

The goals for the GCC's program serving expectant and parenting students shall be to provide continuity in education; increase attendance rates; enable achievement of academic standards; increase graduation rates; develop positive parenting, decision-making and coping skills; develop economic self-sufficiency through job skills; and reduce the incidence of repeat pregnancies for minors.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide a comprehensive program that supplements academic courses with practical instruction geared to expectant and parenting students' specific needs.

The instructional program provided for expectant students shall be determined on a case by case basis and shall be appropriate to the student's individual needs. The student may continue attending school in the regular classroom or alternative education setting, may attend a separate program established for expectant students, may enroll in District adult education with adult status regardless of age, or may pursue an independent study program option.

The Superintendent or designee may grant students a level of absence due to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion for as long as it is deemed medically necessary. At the conclusion of the leave, the student shall be reinstated to the status she held when the leave began.

Expectant and parenting students also may request exemptions from attendance because of physical or mental condition or because of personal services that must be rendered to a dependent.

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with county welfare departments, other local health and social service agencies and community organizations to ensure that appropriate support services are provided by either the GCC or another agency in the community and to coordinate delivery of those services.

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically collect and report to the Board data regarding the number of expectant and parenting students in the GCC and the effectiveness of the GCC's programs in meeting the needs of these students.

Expectant or lactating students shall qualify for nutrition program supplements as provided under Education Code 49559(b). All applications and eligibility records concerning these supplements shall be confidential.

After the birth of her baby, the student may:

1. Return to or continue at a regular high school or junior high school.
2. Participate in an alternative program.
3. Attend alternative high school or District adult education classes.
4. Request exemption from attendance because of personal services that must be rendered to a dependent

## Expectant Minors Program

The GCC recognizes that expectant minors may derive great benefit from a specialized program that supplements academic courses with practical instruction geared to their specific needs. In addition to providing psychological support, this program may include instruction in health, prenatal and postnatal care, preparation for childbirth and parenting, home economics, consumer education, child development, money management, and employable skills.

The GCC's program for expectant minors shall:

1. Identify program goals, student needs, and community resources.
2. Provide an academic program which gives equal educational opportunities to expectant minors.
3. Provide student referral, placement, and transition procedures for students who have not completed graduation requirements at the end of their program eligibility.

Any student is eligible for participation in the program if she has not graduated from high school and has a written pregnancy verification from a licensed physician. A doctor's statement that the student is receiving prenatal care must be obtained by the Superintendent or designee within sixty (60) days after placement in the program. All further eligibility considerations shall comply with Title 5, Section 11829.

## Lactation Accommodations for GCC Students (AB 302)

All GCC Schools with a lactating student must follow the following procedures:

- Provide a private secure room – other than a restroom – to deal with any needs associated with breastfeeding or expressing milk;
- Allow lactating students to bring any equipment used to express breast milk to school, including a breast pump;
- Provide access to a power source for that equipment and a place to safely store expressed milk;
- Provide students with reasonable break time or time away from the classroom to accommodate their lactation schedule;
- Ensure students do not incur an academic penalty for any such breaks they may require;
- Ensure students have the ability to make up any work missed during these breaks;
- Create an internal procedure regarding the filing of complaints. Report all complaints to the GCC Chief Communication and Strategy Officer, who must issue a decision within 5 school days. Decisions may be appealed to the California Department of Education, which must issue a final, written decision within 60 days of filing.

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