



Educational Rights as a Pregnant or Parenting Teen

Can a school exclude me from class or a school activity because I am pregnant or have a child?

No. Schools cannot discriminate against you because you are pregnant, cancelled your pregnancy or have a child. This also includes participating in all academic and extracurricular activities, such as: honors and AP classes; graduation ceremonies; prom and homecoming; clubs and societies; and student government.

Do I have to stay at home or attend another school if my school asks me to?

No. You have the right to receive an equal education. This means that you have the right to: remain in school; make voluntary and informed choices about your education; participate in the same academic and extracurricular activities as other students; and return to school when you wish.

Do I have to stay at home for a period of time before and after giving birth if the school asks me to?

No. The school cannot force you to stay at home for a period of time before and after giving birth because you have the same right to education as other non-pregnant or non-parenting students.

Can the school punish me for missing school days because of doctor visits or caring for my child?

No. The school cannot punish you for excused absences. The school must excuse absences due to you or your child being sick or receiving medical services. Medical services the school must accept to excuse an absence include: pregnancy prevention; prenatal care; labor and delivery; contraception; and abortion.

Can I make up class work that I missed because of excused absences?

The school must allow you to make up work missed during these absences and cannot limit the number of excused absences.

What if I can't attend school for a long period of time because of my pregnancy?

You are entitled to individual instruction if it is impossible or not in your best interest to attend school. There is no time limit and the school must provide individual instruction as long as your medical situation continues. When you are able to come back to school, the school must allow you to attend and place you in the same grade level. Basically, the school must treat pregnancy like other medical situations.

Can the school tell others about my pregnancy or having a child?

No. You have the right to confidentiality, which means that the school needs your permission before sharing your personal information with others.