



Pregnant and Parenting Students... Federal Law Protects Your Right to an Equal Education

Schools cannot treat you differently or exclude you from school programs or activities because of your pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, recovery from these conditions, or marital status.¹

YOU CANNOT BE FORCED TO ATTEND AN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

You have the right to stay in your home school and participate in all school programs, including physical education, honors and extracurricular classes, clubs, sports, and graduation activities.² If necessary, your school must make reasonable accommodations for you to participate in such programs.

If you decide to attend an alternate school, your decision must be voluntary.³

Your alternative school must offer classes that are comparable to those offered at your regular school.⁴

If your regular school offers a class that is not offered at the alternative school, you must be allowed to attend that class at the regular school.⁵

Your school cannot ask you for a doctor's note to participate in activities, unless it requires notes from all students with physical or emotional conditions requiring a doctor's care.⁶

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXCUSED LEAVES OF ABSENCE

If you miss school to attend medical appointments, the school must excuse your absence.⁷ If your school requires you to "make up" that absence by attending additional classes, it is violating the law.⁸

When you return from your absence, your school must reinstate you at the same status as before you left, allow you to complete all missed assignments and tests, and give you full credit upon completion.⁹

If you believe you are being treated unfairly because you are pregnant or parenting, contact your school district's Title IX Coordinator or the California Women's Law Center at 323-951-1041. Go to www.cwlc.org to read more on the Civil Rights of Pregnant and Parenting Students.

¹ 20 U.S.C. §1681; 34 C.F.R. §106.40(a)&(b)

² *Id.*

³ 20 U.S.C. §1681; 34 C.F.R. §106.40(b)(1)

⁴ 20 U.S.C. §1681; 34 C.F.R. §106.40(b)(3)

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ 34 C.F.R. §106.40(b)(2)

⁷ 34 C.F.R. §106.40(b)(5)

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*