

### **MARRIED/PREGNANT/PARENTING STUDENTS**

The Governing Board 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 Board therefore desires to provide instruction and services designed to assist in pregnancy prevention. The Board also desires to support male and female expectant and parenting students to attain strong academic and parenting skills and to promote the healthy development of their children.

Married, expectant and parenting students shall have the same educational and extracurricular opportunities as all students. Participation in special programs or schools shall be voluntary.

For school-related purposes, married students under the age of 18 are emancipated minors and have all the rights and privileges of students who are 18, even if the marriage has been dissolved.

#### **Expectant and Parenting Students**

The Board is committed to providing to expectant and parenting students and their children a comprehensive, continuous, community-linked program that reflects the cultural and linguistic diversity of the community.

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with the County Superintendent of Schools and other community agencies and organizations to ensure that appropriate educational and related support services are available to meet the needs of expectant and parenting students their children.

Expectant and parenting students retain the right to participate in any comprehensive school or educational alternative programs. School placement and instructional strategies for participating students shall be based on the needs and learning styles of individual students. The classroom setting shall be the preferred instructional strategy unless an alternative is necessary to meet the needs of the individual student and/or child.

In addition to providing a quality education program for expectant and parenting students, the district's program shall provide parenting education and life skills instruction, special school nutrition supplements for pregnant and lactating students, and a child care and development program on or near the school site for the children of enrolled students. The district's program may provide other support services authorized by Education Code 54746 as necessary to meet the needs of students and their children.

Pregnancy Prevention Program

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that age-appropriate, culturally sensitive and community-sensitive instruction and services are available to assist in the prevention of pregnancy among minors. The district's program shall be based on strategies that have proven effective in delaying the onset of sexual activity and reducing the incidence of pregnancy among school-age youth.

Adopted: September 10, 2008  
(Replaces: BP 5122.5 Teenage Mothers)  
(Adopted: July 1977)