

REGULATION Queen Anne’s County Public Schools

Responsible Office: Student Support Services

REGULATION for Pregnant and Parenting Students Policy 534

I. REGULATION ELEMENTS

A. Attendance and Lawful Absences

1. Students must be lawfully excused for any pregnancy or parenting related conditions, including absences for:
 - (a) labor
 - (b) delivery
 - (c) recovery
 - (d) prenatal and postnatal medical appointments.
2. Pregnant or parenting students must be allowed at least 10 days of excused absences after the birth of the student’s child.
3. Pregnant or parenting students must be allowed excused absences due to the illness or medical appointment of the student’s child, including up to four days per year for which the school may not require a note from a physician.
4. Pregnant or parenting students must be allowed excused absences for legal appointments related to family law proceedings, including adoption, custody, and visitation.
5. Parenting students must be excused from class due to the use of a lactation space to nurse or express milk.

B. Make Up Work

1. Beyond home and hospital teaching, pregnant and parenting students may be allowed to make up work in other ways by:
 - (a) Retaking a semester;
 - (b) Participating in an online course credit recovery program;
 - (c) Allowing the student six weeks to continue at the same pace and finish at a later date;
 - (d) Consultation with school counselors to discuss options for making up missed work. All options should be considered, including summer and night school,

tutors, dual enrollment, Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities (MVLO) courses, and other credit recovery programs.

C. Lactation

1. Each high school must provide a private lactation space in the school.
2. The lactation space must include at least one seating option with a flat surface.
3. The lactation space must include an electrical outlet nearby to accommodate placement of a breast pump device.
4. The lactation space may not be a bathroom or a closet.
5. The lactating student must have access to a refrigerator located close to the private lactation space.
6. Lactation considerations may include:
 - (a) Consultation with school nurses as to the best place and space for lactation.
 - (b) With student permission, alerting the school nurses of any student needing a safe lactation space so the nurse can share information and resources on lactations and child development with the parent.

D. Support for Students

1. At least one staff member shall be designated to connect pregnant and parenting students with the follow resources:
 - (a) safe, affordable, and reliable childcare,
 - (b) early education services, and
 - (c) transportation services to and from school.
2. Support for Students
 - (a) Consult with school social workers and school pupil personnel workers regarding community resources.
 - (b) Work with the QACPS Office of Transportation to provide transportation services as needed and as appropriate.

E. Training and Publication

1. QACPS will provide for training of school personnel on policy objectives and requirements.
2. Trainings will include but are not limited to:

- (a) The data on school completion and future opportunities for pregnant and parenting teens and their need for support,
- (b) Information on Title IX protections for pregnant and parenting teens,
- (c) Classroom strategies on the development of a safe, supportive, culturally responsive classroom systems with a focus on equity, acceptance, and access for all students,
- (d) Strategies to increase staff awareness and the ability to identify and appropriately respond to the needs of pregnant and parenting students, and
- (e) Strategies that serve to increase staff awareness in identifying and supporting pregnant and parenting students who may be vulnerable to bullying, harassment, or intimidation.

F. Communication

- 1. Identify staff who can reach out to pregnant and parenting students to offer support. Staff may include, but are not limited to, school nurses, school counselors, school social workers, equity officers, and pupil personnel workers.
- 2. Inform staff about the policy regarding pregnant and parenting students during opening-of-school meetings and then periodically throughout the school year.
- 3. Inform students about the policy and note the information in the Student Handbook during orientation sessions in classes.
- 4. Identify designated staff so students know who they can contact for additional support.
- 5. If data are being collected regarding pregnant and parenting students all safeguards must be in place to protect student identity and safety (FERPA and HIPPA)

G. Violations of Bullying or Harassment – Considerations for Local School System Policy

Follow recommended procedures in the QACPS Policy and Regulation on Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation.

H. Resources for Schools and Students

- 1. Section 7-301.1 of the Education Article, Education-Pregnant and Parenting Students <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/site/Laws/StatuteText?article=ged§ion=7-301.1&enactments=False&archived=False>
- 2. Section 4-139 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland (Chapter 438) - *Maryland's Model Policy to Support the Educational and Parenting Goals and Improve the Educational Outcomes of Pregnant and Parenting Students* https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/chapters_noln/Ch_346_sb0438T.pdf


3. Maryland Department of Health Maternal and Child Health Bureau
<https://pha.health.maryland.gov/mch/Pages/home.aspx>
4. Maryland Department of Health Medicaid eligibility
<https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Apply%20for%20Medicaid.aspx>
5. Maryland Department of Health-Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP)
<https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/chp/pages/home.aspx>
6. Maryland State Department of Education Division of Early Childhood, Office of Child Care
<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/office-child-care>
7. Maryland Department of Human Services <https://dhs.maryland.gov/>
8. 2-2-1 Health and Human Services Community Resources (Maryland)
<https://211md.org/>

II. IMPLEMENTATION

The Superintendent directs QACPS staff to implement this regulation.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE

Date: May 4, 2022



 Patricia W. Saelens, Ed.D.
 Superintendent, Queen Anne’s County Public Schools

HISTORY:

Initial Adoption	05/04/2022	Revised	--/--/----	Reviewed	--/--/----	Next Review	05/04/2026
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