

# PENN MANOR SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

APPROVED: July 2, 2012

REVISED:

## 234-AR-0. PREGNANT/PARENTING/MARRIED STUDENTS

District administrators will not exclude married, pregnant or parenting students from attending school and participating in cocurricular activities.

Based upon the general rule for student attendance, married, pregnant and parenting students must satisfy all compulsory school attendance requirements established by the Board but may obtain an excuse from attending school.

A pregnant student may inform a teacher, nurse, counselor or other school staff about her pregnancy. The staff member will inform the principal upon receipt of the information.

The principal and/or nurse or designated counselor will meet with the pregnant student, explain the rules for attendance, provide information regarding the resources available, and give the student the Student Health Report to be completed by the student's licensed physician.

The student must return the completed Student Health Report signed by the licensed physician after her next physician's appointment.

A nurse or school counselor will be designated by the principal to serve as the resource/contact person for the student. The designated individual will maintain and provide a list of resources available to the student, will communicate with local community agencies that can provide relevant assistance, and will assist in the student accessing available social services that will enable the student to remain in school to achieve graduation.

The principal and designated resource/contact person will review the completed Student Health Report and will determine and implement any special considerations or limitations, attendance exceptions, and alternate educational programs required for the student.

### Guidelines For Attendance Of Pregnant/Parenting Students

1. Pregnant Student – The resource/contact person will make an effort to ensure that the student stays enrolled and attends school consistently.
2. Complicated Pregnancy – If complications arise during pregnancy that cause attendance at school to be harmful to the physical or mental health of the student or infant, the student must submit to the resource/contact person a statement from the licensed attending physician specifically supporting the absence and requesting homebound instruction for a specific period of time.

3. Parenting Female Student – Following the birth of an infant, a female requires a period of time to recuperate from child birth and arrange for child care. The student must submit to the resource/contact person a statement from the licensed attending physician stating the birth date of the infant. The district will provide homebound instruction to the student for a period up to six (6) weeks following the birth.
4. Parenting Student – Following the six-week post-partum period, the female student will be required to follow all Board policies regarding general student attendance.

The principal will allow any student who has been absent from school due to pregnancy or parenting to re-enter the school in the same manner as any student whose nonattendance is a result of an excused absence or temporary disability.

A student over compulsory school age who leaves school due to pregnancy or parenting, without achieving a high school diploma, will be permitted to re-enter school until the age of twenty-one (21).

#### Homebound Instruction

Becoming a pregnant or parenting student does not, in itself, necessitate that a student receive homebound instruction.

A student requesting homebound instruction must submit to the resource/contact person a written certification from a licensed physician that homebound instruction is required for the student, based on the specific reasons stated.

The required certification will be forwarded to the principal, who will determine if the district will provide homebound instruction.

#### Excuses From Attending School

The principal may temporarily excuse attendance by a pregnant or parenting student for mental, physical or other urgent reasons, for a period not to exceed three (3) months.

A student requesting a temporary excuse from attendance must submit to the resource/contact person written satisfactory evidence to support the absence.

The request and supporting evidence will be forwarded to the principal, who will determine if the absence will be approved.

Exceptions To Compulsory Attendance Requirements

Although pregnancy and parenting are not specifically stated as conditions for excusal from school, the Board may excuse attendance if a student submits written evidence that attendance would be harmful to the physical or mental health of the pregnant or parenting student. Also, “urgent reasons” can be construed to allow the Board to permit an excuse from attendance when a student submits written evidence of extenuating circumstances that require the pregnant or parenting student to not attend school.

Any excuse from attending school for longer than temporary periods will not be final until the Board obtains the approval of the Secretary of Education. The district will maintain and submit to the Secretary of Education documentation regarding the reason(s) for an excuse from attendance and will request approval in all cases where nonattendance is being sought for longer than a temporary period.

The district will not allow the use of a domestic work permit by a pregnant or parenting student as a reason to be exempt from compulsory school attendance.

The district may offer separate, alternate educational programs or special courses in order to maintain appropriate educational opportunities for pregnant and parenting students. Such programs and courses will be comparable to the established curriculum, and attendance by students will be voluntary.