

Education for Pregnant and Parenting Students

The Board of Education will provide all pregnant and parenting students with the same educational instruction as other students or its equivalent. Pregnant and parenting students will not be discriminated against or excluded from school or from any program, class or extracurricular activity because they are pregnant or parenting students. School administrators shall provide assistance and support to encourage pregnant and parenting students to remain enrolled in school and graduate.

In accordance with state law, school system officials shall use, as needed, supplemental funds from the At-Risk Student Services allotment to support programs for pregnant and parenting students. Students who are pregnant or parenting will be given excused absences from school for pregnancy and related conditions for the length of time the students' physicians find medically necessary. These absences include those due to the illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child of whom the student is the custodial parent. Homework and make-up work will be made available to pregnant and parenting students to ensure that they have the opportunity to keep current with assignments and avoid losing course credit because of their absence from school, and, to the extent necessary, a homebound teacher will be assigned. For more information regarding homebound services, see Buncombe County Schools Special Services, Hospital/Homebound Program Guidelines.

In addition, school personnel shall annually provide all students in Grades 9 through 12 with information on the manner in which a parent may lawfully abandon a newborn baby with a responsible person in accordance with G.S. 7B-500.

According to G.S. 7B-500, the following individuals shall take into temporary custody an infant under seven (7) days of age that is voluntarily delivered to the individual by the infant's parent: (1) a health care provider who is on duty or at a hospital or at a local or district health department or at a nonprofit community health center; (2) a law enforcement officer who is on duty or at a police station or sheriff's department; (3) a social services worker who is on duty or at a local department of social services; or (4) a certified emergency medical service worker who is on duty or at a fire or emergency medical service station. Any adult may take into temporary custody an infant under seven (7) days of age that is voluntarily delivered to the adult by the infant's parent and the adult shall immediately notify the Department of Social Services or a local law enforcement agency.

Any individual identified above may inquire as to parents' identities and as to any relevant medical history, but the parent is not required to provide that information. The individual shall notify the parent that the parent is not required to provide that information.

Legal Reference: G.S. 7B-500; 115C -47(52), -375.5

Adopted: March 7, 2013