

TITLE IX

FACT SHEET

Pregnant and Parenting Students' Rights

June 2012

Title IX says that schools must give all students who might be, are or have been pregnant (whether the student is a parent or not) the same access to school programs and extracurricular activities that other students have. Some states have their own laws that provide other protections, or even support services, for students. You should talk to a lawyer, or find other legal counsel, to find out what your state provides.

Title IX Basic Rights

- **You must have equal access to school and activities, and special services provided for temporarily disabled students must also be provided for pregnant students.**
- **If the school has a separate program or school for students who are pregnant or parents, it is your choice whether to attend. You are not required to do so. Also, these programs must give you the same opportunities that other students get. This means the classes and the activities offered, must be equal to what you would get at your regular school.**
- **Your school must excuse your absence due to pregnancy or childbirth for as long as your doctor says it is necessary.**
- **You do not have to turn in a doctor's note to continue going to school or doing activities unless all students must do so.**

School Activities

- You are allowed to go to school and participate in activities for as long as you want. The school cannot stop you from joining in, and the school cannot ask for a doctor's note, unless the school has the same rules for all students who have a medical condition that requires treatment by a doctor.

Classes

- The school cannot make you go to any separate program for pregnant or parenting students. If you do choose to go to a separate program, the coursework and activities must be just as good as the opportunities you would have in your regular school.
- If a teacher does not want you in his or her class because you are pregnant, talk to your guidance counselor or principal. According to the law, you must be allowed in class if you want to be there. We encourage you to stick with it so you can graduate and reach your goals!
- Title IX requires that schools provide pregnant students with any special services they provide to temporarily disabled students. If temporarily disabled students get at-home tutoring to help them keep up with work, so must students who miss school because of pregnancy or childbirth.

Excused absences

- Your school must excuse your absences for as long as your doctor says it is necessary for you to be absent, and your school must let you make up the work you missed while you were out.

Remember:

Schools must at least prevent discrimination against pregnant and parenting students, but schools can – and should – do more to support these students so they succeed in school. For more info, please contact the National Women's Law Center at info@nwl.org, or go to www.nwlc.org/pregnantstudents.