

REGULATION

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: JB, JB-RA, JS

Responsible Office: DIVISION OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS

A. PURPOSE

To establish procedures in support of the educational and parenting goals of pregnant and parenting students in Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS).

B. BACKGROUND

AACPS recognizes the importance of supporting the educational and parenting goals of pregnant and parenting students. AACPS understands that providing adequate supports will help improve the educational outcomes of pregnant and parenting students.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. *Lawful Absence* – as defined in Regulation JB-RA – Compulsory Attendance.
2. *Unlawful Absence* – as defined in Regulation JB-RA – Compulsory Attendance.

D. PROCEDURES

1. Lactation Space

- a. In accordance with State law, each AACPS high school shall provide a private lactation space in the school which:
 - i. Includes at least one seating option with a flat surface;
 - ii. Includes an electrical outlet nearby to accommodate placement of a breast pump device; and
 - iii. Is a place, other than a bathroom or closet, that is shielded from view and free from intrusion from students, school staff, and the public.
- b. The lactating student must have access to a refrigerator located close to the private lactation space.

- c. Nothing in the regulation shall be construed to require a school to construct an addition or new space to a school building to provide a private lactation space to comply with the requirements of the regulation and accompanying policy.

2. Attendance

In accordance with Regulation JB-RA – Compulsory Attendance, a student's absence due to a student's pregnancy or parenting needs is a lawful absence as defined by State law.

- a. Any absence due to pregnancy-related or parenting-related conditions shall be excused, including:
 - i. Prenatal medical appointments;
 - ii. Labor;
 - iii. Delivery;
 - iv. Recovery;
 - v. Postnatal medical appointments; and
 - vi. Lactation accommodations.
- b. A parenting student shall receive at least 10 days of excused absences after the birth of the student's child.
- c. Any parenting-related absence due to an illness or a medical appointment of the student's child, including up to 4 days of absences per school year which may not require a note from a physician, shall be excused.
- d. Any absence due to a legal appointment involving the pregnant or parenting student that is related to family law proceedings, including adoption, custody, and visitation, shall be excused.
- e. In addition to home and hospital teaching services, a pregnant or parenting student may be allowed to:
 - i. Make-up the work that the student missed in a time period that equals at least as many days that the student was absent; or
 - ii. Choose one of the following alternatives to make up work that the student missed:

- a) Retake a semester;
- b) Participate in an online course credit recovery program; or
- c) Allow the student 6 weeks to continue at the same pace and finish at a later date.

3. Resources

In accordance with State law, each high school shall designate at least one staff member to connect pregnant and parenting students with the following resources:

- i. Safe, affordable, and reliable childcare;
- ii. Early education services; and
- iii. Transportation services to and from school.

4. Professional Development

AACPS shall provide training to school staff on the objectives and requirements of this regulation and accompanying policy.

Regulation History: Issued 05/04/22

Note Previous Regulation History: None

Legal References: Sections 4-139, 7-301, and 7-301.1 of the Education Article; Code of Maryland Regulations 13A.08.01.01-.07; Maryland's Model Policy to Support the Educational and Parenting Goals and Improve the Educational Outcomes of Pregnant and Parenting Students