
PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS POLICY

Pregnancy, or parenting and related responsibilities may disrupt a student's education. Excel Academy Charter Schools (“EACS” or “School”) adopts the following policy designed to provide needed support and accommodations to remove barriers to allow students access to the education process.

Education and Support Services for Pregnant and Parenting Students Pregnant and parenting students shall retain the right to participate in any comprehensive school or educational program. The independent study setting shall be the preferred instructional strategy and program. Any education program or activity that is offered separately to pregnant students, including any class or extracurricular activity, shall be equal to that offered to other EACS students. A student's participation in such programs shall be voluntary. As required for other students with physical or emotional conditions or temporary disabilities, the school’s Executive Director or designee may require a student, based on pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or related recovery, to obtain certification from a physician (Medical Doctor or Doctor of Osteopathy) indicating that the student is physically and emotionally able to participate in an extracurricular educational activity.

To the extent feasible, educational and related support services shall be provided to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students. Such services may include, but are not limited to:

1. Academic and personal counseling
2. Supplemental instruction to assist students in achieving grade-level academic standards and progressing toward graduation
3. Career planning instruction
4. Counseling in regard to alternative diploma pathways including GED preparation

As appropriate, teachers, administrators, and/or other personnel who work with pregnant and parenting students shall receive related professional development.

Reasonable Accommodations

When necessary, the school shall provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant and parenting students to enable them to access the educational program. A pregnant student shall have access to any services available to other students with temporary disabilities or medical conditions.

Absences

Pregnant and parenting students will be encouraged to remain enrolled in the independent study program and access their academic courses. The Executive Director or designee may grant a student a leave of absence due to pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, and related recovery for as long as it is deemed medically necessary by a physician. At the conclusion of the leave, the student shall be reinstated to the status held when the leave began. Pregnant and parenting students will not receive truancy notifications or related contracts while on leave. Absences accrued by pregnant and parenting teens while on leave will be exempt from the school’s attendance policy and involuntary removal policy.

