



Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students Policy

America's Finest Charter School recognizes that early marriage, pregnancy, or parenting and related responsibilities may disrupt a student's education and increase the chance of a student dropping out of school.

The Board therefore desires to support pregnant, and parenting students to continue their education, attain strong academic and parenting skills, and promote the healthy development of their children. The district shall not discriminate against any student on the basis of the student's actual or perceived marital, family, or parental status, pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or related recovery. Any education program or activity, including any class or extracurricular activity that is offered separately to such students shall be equal to that offered to other district students. A student's participation in such programs shall be voluntary such as Physical Education and extracurricular and co-curricular activities. Any complaint of discrimination based on pregnancy or marital, family or parental status shall be addressed through the America's Finest Charter Schools Uniform Complaint Policy.

Any complaint alleging AFCS noncompliance with the requirements to provide reasonable accommodations for lactating students also may be filed in accordance with the district's Uniform Complaint Procedures. A complainant who is not satisfied with the district's decision may appeal the decision to the California Department of Education (CDE). If the CDE finds merit in an appeal, AFCS shall provide a remedy to the affected student. (Education Code 222; 5 CCR 4600-4687) (cf. 1312.3 – Uniform Complaint Procedures) For school-related purposes, a married student under the age of 18 years shall have all the rights and privileges of students who are 18 years old, even if the marriage has been dissolved. (Family Code 7002) As appropriate, teachers, administrators, and/or other personnel who work with pregnant and parenting students shall receive related professional development. (cf. 4131 - Staff Development) (cf. 4231 - Staff Development) (cf. 4331 - Staff Development) 2 BP 5146

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically report to the AFCS Board regarding the effectiveness of district strategies to support married, pregnant, and parenting students, which may include data on participation rates in district programs and services, academic achievement, school attendance, graduation rate, and/or student feedback on district programs and services. (cf. 0500 –Accountability) (cf. 6162.5 –Student Assessment)

Pregnant and Parenting Students shall retain the right to participate in any comprehensive school or educational alternative program. The classroom setting shall be the preferred instructional strategy unless an alternative is necessary to meet the needs of the student and/or his/her child. When necessary, the district 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. A lactating student shall have access to a private and secure location, other than a restroom, to breastfeed or express milk for her infant child.



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Students shall be granted a reasonable amount of time to accommodate the need to express breast milk or breastfeed an infant child as well as permission to bring to school sites, a breast pump and any other equipment used to express breast milk. Students shall also be provided access to a power source for a breast pump or any other equipment used to express breast milk, in addition to access to a place to store expressed breast milk safely. A student shall not incur an academic penalty for using any of these reasonable accommodations and shall be provided the opportunity to make up any work missed due to such use. (Education Code 222)

A student may be required, based on her pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or related recovery, to obtain certification from a physician indicating that she is physically and emotionally able to participate in an educational program or activity, if other students with physical or emotional conditions or temporary disabilities are required by the district to provide such certification. (34 CFR 106.40) To the extent feasible, educational and related support services shall be provided, either through the district or in collaboration with community agencies and organizations, to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students and their children. Such services may include but are not limited to: 1. Parenting education and life skills instruction 2. Academic and personal counseling 3. Supplemental instruction to assist students in achieving grade-level academic standards and progressing toward graduation.

Pregnant or parenting pupils shall not be required to participate in pregnant minor programs or alternative education programs. If they voluntarily participate in these programs, they need to be given educational programs, activities, and courses equal to those that they have participated in the educational program.

1. A pregnant or parenting pupil is entitled to eight weeks of parental leave. Which the pupil may take before the birth of the pupil's infant if there is a medical necessity and after childbirth during the school year in which the birth takes place, inclusive of any mandatory summer instruction, in order to protect the health of the pupil who gives or expects to give birth and the infant, and to allow the pregnant or parenting pupil to care for and bond with the infant. It is the intent of the Legislature that the pupil, if the pupil is 18 years of age older, or, if the pupil is under 18 years of age, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the pupil, notify the school of the pupils intent to exercise the right. Failure to notify the school shall not abridge the rights established by this paragraph or any other right established by this subdivision.
2. A pregnant or parenting pupil who does not wish to take all or part of the parental leave to which they are entitled pursuant to paragraph (1) shall not be required to do so.
3. A pregnant or parenting pupil is entitled to receive more than eight weeks of parental leave pursuant to paragraph (1) if deemed medically necessary by the pupils physician.
4. When a pupil takes parental leave pursuant paragraph (1), the supervisor of attendance shall ensure that absences from the pupil's regular school program are excused until the pupil is able to return to the regular school program or an alternative education program.



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5. During parental leave taken pursuant to paragraph (1), a local educational agency shall not require a pregnant or parenting pupil to complete academic work or other school requirements.
6. A pregnant or parenting pupil may return to the school and the course of study in which he or she was enrolled before taking parental leave pursuant to paragraph (1).
7. Upon return to school after taking parental leave pursuant to paragraph (1), a pregnant or parenting pupil is entitled to opportunities to make up work missed during his or her leave, including, but not limited to, make-up work plans and re-enrollment in courses.
8. Notwithstanding any other law, a pregnant or parenting pupil may remain enrolled for a fifth year of instruction in the school in which the pupil was previously enrolled when it is necessary in order for the pupil to be able to complete state and any local graduation requirements, unless the local educational agency makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the local educational agencies graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the pupil's fourth year of high school.
9. A pupil who chooses not to return to the school in which he or she was enrolled before taking parental leave pursuant to paragraph (1) is entitled to alternative education options offered by Americas Finest Charter School
10. In accordance with subdivision (d) of Section 221.51, a pregnant or parenting pupil who participates in an alternative education program shall be given educational programs, activities and courses equal to those he or she would have been in if participating in the regular education program.

Excused Absences and Medical Leave

- Excuse absences due to pregnancy or childbirth for as long as your doctor says it is necessary.
- Allow you to return to the same academic and extracurricular status as before your medical leave began, which should include giving you the opportunity to make up any work missed while you were out.
- Ensure that teachers understand the Title IX requirements related to excused absences/medical leave. Your teacher may not refuse to allow you to submit work after a deadline you missed because of pregnancy or childbirth. If your teacher's grading is based in part on class participation or attendance and you missed class because of pregnancy or childbirth, you should be allowed to make up the participation or attendance credits you didn't have the chance to earn.
- Provide pregnant students with the same special services it provides to students with temporary medical conditions. This includes homebound instruction/at-home tutoring/independent study.
- Excused absences for the absence for the care of a sick child, for which the school is prohibited from requiring a note from the doctor.



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Pregnant and Parenting Students will be notified of their rights and options through annual welcome packets and through Independent Student Contracts.

First Reading 5/16/2019

Second Reading _____

Adopted Policy: 5/16/2019