

AMENDMENTS TO LB428

Introduced by Education.

1           1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new  
2 sections:

3           Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

4           (1) Pregnant and parenting students face enormous challenges to  
5 completing their education. The majority of young women who become  
6 pregnant in high school leave school which detrimentally impacts their  
7 financial, social, and educational future, as well as the future of their  
8 children;

9           (2) Schools have an obligation to keep pregnant and parenting  
10 students in school;

11           (3) Schools must remove overly restrictive or inflexible absence and  
12 leave policies so that pregnant students can attend prenatal medical  
13 appointments and parenting students can attend appointments for pediatric  
14 medical care, provide opportunities for students to make up school work  
15 or allow alternative education for students who become pregnant, and make  
16 accommodations for breastfeeding or milk expression; and

17           (4) Young women should not have to choose between completing their  
18 education and parenthood.

19           Sec. 2. Beginning May 1, 2018, the school board of each school  
20 district shall adopt a written policy to be implemented at the start of  
21 the 2018-19 school year which provides for standards and guidelines to  
22 accommodate absences related to pregnancy and child care for pregnant and  
23 parenting students. Such policy shall include procedures and provisions  
24 in conformance with the minimum standards set forth in the model policy  
25 developed by the State Department of Education pursuant to section 3 of  
26 this act and may include any other procedures and provisions the school  
27 board deems appropriate.

1           Sec. 3. On or before December 1, 2017, the State Department of  
2 Education shall develop and distribute a model policy to encourage the  
3 educational success of pregnant and parenting students. At a minimum,  
4 such policy shall:

5           (1) Specifically identify procedures to anticipate and provide for  
6 student absences due to pregnancy and allow students to return to school  
7 and, if applicable, participate in extracurricular activities after  
8 pregnancy;

9           (2) Provide alternative methods to keep a pregnant or parenting  
10 student in school by allowing coursework to be accessed at home or  
11 accommodating tutoring visits, online courses, or a similar supplement to  
12 classroom attendance;

13           (3) Identify alternatives for accommodating lactation by providing  
14 students with private, hygienic spaces to express breast milk during the  
15 school day; and

16           (4) Establish a procedure for schools which do not have an in-school  
17 child care facility to assist student-parents by identifying child care  
18 providers for purposes of placing their children in child care facilities  
19 which, where possible, participate in the quality rating and improvement  
20 system and meet all of the quality rating criteria for at least a step-  
21 three rating pursuant to the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act and which  
22 collaborate with the school.

23           Sec. 4. In addition to the development of a model policy, the State  
24 Department of Education shall offer training for teachers, counselors,  
25 and administrators on each school district's policy adopted under section  
26 2 of this act and the rights of pregnant and parenting students to  
27 receive equal access to education.