

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 516

BY REPRESENTATIVES LANDRY AND FREEMAN

EDUCATION: Requires each governing authority of a public high school to adopt policies regarding attendance, breastfeeding, and child care for students who are pregnant or parenting

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:221.8 and 3996(B)(67), relative to students; to require the governing
3 authority of each public high school to adopt policies relative to students who are
4 pregnant or parenting; to provide that policies shall address attendance,
5 breastfeeding, and child care; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Support for Pregnant
8 and Parenting Students Act".

9 Section 2. R.S. 17:221.8 and 3996(B)(67) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §221.8. Pregnant or parenting students; policies; attendance, breastfeeding, and
11 child care

12 A. The governing authority of each public high school shall adopt an
13 attendance policy for pregnant and parenting students that shall:

14 (1)(a) Excuse absences due to conditions related to pregnancy or parenting,
15 including but not limited to labor, delivery, and recovery; prenatal and postnatal
16 medical appointments and other medically necessary pregnancy-related absences;
17 a child's illness or medical appointment; and legal appointments related to pregnancy
18 or parenting, including but not limited to adoption, custody, and visitation.

1 (b) Provide at least ten days of excused absences for both a parenting mother
2 and a parenting father after the birth of a child.

3 (2) At the conclusion of any pregnancy-related or parenting-related period
4 of absence, allow a student to make up missed work in a reasonable amount of time
5 that shall not be less than the number of days the student was absent and choose from
6 various options to make up the work, including retaking a semester, participating in
7 an online course credit recovery program, being granted six weeks to continue at the
8 same pace and finish at a later date, or receiving home-based instruction services.

9 (3) Provide that for absences or checkouts for reasons provided in Paragraph
10 (1) of this Subsection, a school shall accept either of the following:

11 (a) Documentation from a physician.

12 (b) Permission from a parent or legal guardian.

13 B. The governing authority of each public high school shall adopt a policy
14 relative to breastfeeding that shall:

15 (1) Provide for reasonable accommodations for a lactating student on a
16 school campus to express breast milk, breastfeed, or address other breastfeeding
17 needs, which shall include, at a minimum:

18 (a) Access to a private and secure room other than a restroom to express
19 breast milk or breastfeed a child.

20 (b) Permission to bring a breast pump and any other equipment used to
21 express breast milk to school.

22 (c) Access to a power source for a breast pump or any other equipment used
23 to express breast milk.

24 (d) Access to a place to store breastmilk safely.

25 (2) Provide that a lactating student shall be provided a reasonable amount of
26 time to accommodate the need to express breast milk or breastfeed a child while at
27 school.

28 (3) Provide that a student shall not incur an academic penalty as a result of
29 use, during the school day, of the reasonable accommodations specified in this

- (1) Relative to attendance, provides that absences for certain conditions and activities related to pregnancy or parenting shall be excused and requires that students be allowed to make up missed work.
- (2) Relative to breastfeeding, requires reasonable accommodations for lactating students to breastfeed or express breast milk at school.
- (3) Relative to child care, requires informing parenting students of school-provided child care; if no school-provided child care is available, requires assisting parenting students in locating child care.

Proposed law is applicable to all public high schools, including charter schools.

(Adds R.S. 17:221.8 and 3996(B)(67))