Central Office
PO Box 2470 Julian, CA 92036
760-765-5500
www.jcs-inc.org

JCS Family

EMPOWERING LEARNERS FOR 20 YEARS

JCS-Cedar Cove JCS LIVE JCS-Manzanita JCS-Mountain Oaks JCS-Pine Hills JCS-Pine Valley

FAQs: RIGHTS AND OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO PREGNANT/PARENTING PUPILS

Assembly Bill (AB) 2289 states that pregnant and parenting pupils are entitled to accommodations that provide them with the opportunity to succeed academically while protecting their health and the health of their children by establishing specified rights. The law is effective as of January 2019.

Can my school treat me differently because of my pregnancy or parental status?
No, Title IX of the United States Code prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes both pregnancy and parental status.

Can my school prevent me from participating in any educational program or activity?
No, a school may not exclude or deny a pregnant or parenting pupil from any educational program or activity, including class or extracurricular activity, based solely on the pupil's pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery. However, a school may require a pupil to obtain a doctor's note to ensure that they are emotionally and/or physically able to continue participation in the educational program.

Can my school force me to take part in a pregnant minor program?
No, a pregnant or parenting pupil does not have to participate in any alternative educational program because of pregnancy or parental status. A student may voluntarily take part in these programs if they choose.

Am I entitled to any parental leave in preparation or to take care of my newborn child?
Yes, any pregnant or parenting pupil is entitled to a minimum of eight weeks of parental leave, which may be increased under medical necessity. A pupil is not required to complete any class work during this period, and it must be counted as an excused absence by the school.

What if my child is sick?
Taking care of a sick child counts as an excused absence, and the school may not require you to provide a doctor's note for this kind of absence.

What happens when I return to school?
A pregnant or parenting pupil will return to their normal course of study. The pupil is entitled to opportunities to make up any missed work from parental leave. This includes being able to stay for a fifth year of school to complete graduation requirements. The pupil may also enroll in an alternative educational program provided it is equal to that of their former schoolwork.

Do these rights only apply to pregnant pupils?
No, these rights apply equally to all pregnant and parenting pupils, defined as any student who gives or expects to give birth, or any student who identifies as a parent of an infant. A pupil may file a uniform complaint if their school violates the rules above.