

PART VII: PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS

To ensure that pregnant and parenting students are treated in compliance with the requirements of Title IX and Section 1003.54, F.S., districts are asked to respond to the following questions regarding programs for pregnant and parenting students:

- (1) How does the district make provisions for pregnant and parenting students to complete the coursework necessary to earn a high school diploma? How are ancillary services (such as child care, health care, social services, parent education and transportation) provided?

Our district is providing an array of services to support on-line students in the remote learning environment. Our Teen Parent Programs have students that have elected to do remote learning. Schools are utilizing every resource to make connections with the Teen Parents and their children. Students enrolled in the teen parent program are afforded an array of options to lead to the earning of a high school diploma. Each of the students in the teen parent program attend classes just as any other high school student would. They are assigned to a school counselor based on their last name (Alpha order) and are guided through the process of coursework (towards the diploma) just as all students are. Students enrolled in the program meet with their counselor to review their transcript and to develop an academic plan that will be provide them with the best opportunity to graduate. Students have the option of participating in classes held on site at Riverview High School or North Port High School, Suncoast Technical Center, through on-line learning courses and through a blended combination. During the course of the school day, their children are cared for by the teen parent program staff members in either a nursery, toddler or preschool classroom setting depending on the age of their children. Health care needs for both parents and children are addressed on site via the school nurses, the family advocates from Children's First, the Health department (by referral) or indirectly through our full-time program social worker and our district based social workers. The full-time program social worker provides for the social work needs of our teen parents and families on a daily basis. Each of our teen parents attend parenting classes as a part of their daily curriculum at Riverview High School and North Port High School. Specialized transportation is provided by the district (if needed) so that our teen parents and babies can ride to and from school on a county school bus.

- (2) If the district operates a separate program for pregnant and parenting students, how are students informed of the different curricula, services or other options available through the program versus what is available at their home schools? (Attach brochure(s) used to inform pregnant and parenting students of their educational options.)

The benefits of the teen parenting program are shared in several ways. It has been determined that the most effective means of getting the word out to be through the county health department. Health department staff refer students to the program based social worker on a regular basis. The teen parent program social worker shares pertinent information annually with school counselors and registrars at other high schools to make them aware of the program through annual required professional development meetings. All middle school and high school certified school counselors are informed, annually, of the program design and benefits. Local community services agencies such as, Children's First have been an excellent source for sharing information about the program. Students that have graduated from the program are eager to speak the praises of the teen parent program (word of mouth

advertising as it were) and many local and community groups who support the program are also involved with sharing the word. Lastly, all prospective students are encouraged to tour of the program. During this tour (which has proven the most powerful way to get new students) the incoming students get to talk with current students, get to see the nurseries in action, meet the staff and participate in a campus tour.

- (3) How are school counselors and administrators trained to effectively advise pregnant or parenting students of their options to participate in regular classroom activities or enroll in a special program, and their access to curricular, extracurricular, and ancillary service programs?

School counselors and administrators receive informative updates through professional development offerings provided at the school, district, and state level. Staff and administrators participate in regularly scheduled leadership and staff meetings where pertinent updates are shared. School based guidance staff work closely with teen parent support team members. Ongoing professional development is provided to counselors pertaining to course and graduation requirements, course offerings and opportunities, and supports available to students in need. School based administrators, counselors, and staff can refer teen parent questions to the program director. The program director then follows up accordingly to ensure that student's questions and concerns are appropriately addressed. A full time program director, a full time social worker, two parent advocates from Children's First, and a registrar, are all in place in order to provide support and guidance to students. Onsite child care allows for teen parents to grow and develop academically, emotionally, and socially. Teen parents are afforded the opportunity to attend and participate in the full range of academic, extracurricular, and ancillary services at Riverview High School.