

342.31 SCHOOL-AGE PARENT PROGRAM

Purpose

The school-age parent program is operative for the purpose of providing meaningful educational options for the school-age parent to enable her/him to continue her/his education. The primary objectives of the program are to: 1) enable the student to maintain her/his functioning at grade level; 2) enable the student to be eligible for promotion from one grade level to the next when appropriate; and 3) provide curriculum which will expose the student to the basic knowledge of maternal health practices and the acquisition of child care techniques.

District Responsibility

School-age parent means any person under the age of 21 who is not a high school graduate and is a parent, an expectant parent or a person who has been pregnant within the immediately preceding 120 days. The services may be refused by the student and/or the student's parent(s). In the case of a refusal, other alternatives will be explored.

State law provides that no person may be denied admission to any public school or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of or be discriminated against in any curricular, co-extracurricular, pupil services, recreational or other program or activity because of the person's pregnancy, marital or parental status.

Further, neither the Board nor any employee of the District may in any manner compel a pregnant girl to withdraw from her educational program.

Transportation and Materials: Transportation and educational materials will be provided by the District.

Objectives

- To design an individualized instructional program which reflects the student's a) educational level, b) ability, c) interests and d) career orientation.
- To provide curriculum which includes academic courses and child growth and development and social issues.
- To provide a basic knowledge of maternal health practices and child care techniques.
- To coordinate program with existing vocational and work experience programs operated by the District, based on student need.
- To enhance a positive self-image, sense of self worth and personal and social adjustment.
- To provide credit toward grade promotion for work satisfactorily completed.

- To maintain the student's current grade level of functioning.
- To cooperate with, and within resource capabilities, refer to other agencies in efforts to provide for the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs of the student.
- To assist the student to return to the regular school setting, State law provides that services may be provided up to 120 days after the birth of the child.

Referral

A. Referral is made to the guidance counselor. The guidance counselor then will inform the program coordinator if that function is carried out by a different person.

B. After referral has been received, the program coordinator:

1. Verifies the parental status of the student.
2. Informs the student of education options/ informs the student that participation in the program is voluntary.
3. Coordinates a staffing to include the student, the student's parent(s), teachers and appropriate pupil services personnel to consider:
 - a. The student's current educational program
 - b. Program modifications
 - c. Special programming available
 - d. Placement options including:
 - Continuation in the regular school program with supportive services provided by pupil services personnel.
 - Attendance in an educational program designed specifically to meet the needs of the school-age parent.
 - Home study programs for school-age mothers as provided under s.118.15(1)(d)5., Statutes during pregnancy and in the 120 days immediately following pregnancy.
 - Hospital instruction for school-age mothers during periods when the pupil is hospitalized both prior to and following delivery.
 - Other programs and services which may be available to pupils identified as children at risk under s. 118.153, Statutes.

- e. Establishes an educational plan for the student.
- f. Obtains consent of school-age parent and student's parent(s) unless student has reached the age of majority or is otherwise emancipated.

Parent(s) or student may elect to remain in regularly scheduled classes rather than going into an alternative program.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Wisconsin Statutes, Sections 118.13, 118.15 (4M), 118, 153
Wisconsin Administrative Code PI 19

CROSS-REFERENCE: 342.31 (Rule, School Age Parent Program Guideline), 411 (Equal Education Opportunities), 411 (Rule, Student Non-discrimination Complaint Procedures)

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