

## **STUDENT PREGNANCY / BIRTH CONTROL ISSUES AND SEXUAL ACTIVITY**

1.0 For purposes of this policy, reference to “parent” shall include a student’s legal guardian, including a person serving as a guardian pursuant to a power of attorney document meeting the requirements of Colorado law. References to “counselor” shall include social workers and psychologists employed by the District and to school-based therapists employed by third parties who are working with or have been assigned to work with a student. The term “imminent harm” shall be defined as those medical situations that reasonably appear to pose an immediate threat to the student’s life (e.g., severe abdominal pain, bleeding, etc.).

2.0 Student communications to staff members concerning a possible pregnancy are not legally privileged; staff shall not promise to hold such information in confidence. Staff shall work with the student as provided in this policy.

3.0 This policy shall apply to all District students, including those age 18 and older, unless the school has received satisfactory evidence indicating that the child is no longer dependent upon support from his/her parent or legal guardian.

4.0 This policy shall not require staff to inquire into a student’s confirmed pregnancy based upon statements from peers or third parties alleging that the student is pregnant or has caused a pregnancy, except when the alleged pregnancy is the alleged result of abuse, neglect, or criminal conduct (e.g., rape or incest).

5.0 Staff members who receive information suggesting that a student may be pregnant will communicate the information to the counselor for follow-up. The student should be referred to the building nurse or health aide if the student’s disclosure of suspected or actual pregnancy is made at the time the student indicates that she is presently experiencing symptoms which pose imminent harm to the student. In such a case, the nurse or health aide should respond to the medical issues presented according to standard procedures and should inform the parent concerning the possible or actual pregnancy at the time of notifying the parent concerning the student’s medical issue at school.

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cont.**

6.0 If the student has not informed the parent/legal guardian, the counselor should encourage the student to disclose the issue to the student's parent/legal guardian. The counselor will notify the parent/legal guardian in cases where there is evidence of imminent harm to the student. The counselor shall also notify the parent/legal guardian in all cases of reported pregnancy for elementary and middle school students except as provided in Section 6.1. In cases of imminent harm to the student, and cases involving the reported pregnancy of an elementary or middle school student, the counselor shall contact the building principal.

6.1 Parental notice shall not be required if the counselor has reasonable grounds to believe that the student is likely to be abused as a result of the disclosure. In such circumstances, the Department of Social Services shall be notified.

7.0 Counselors shall not encourage or advise students to select a specific option for responding to the pregnancy. This policy is not intended to limit referrals of pregnant students to District programs which provide educational services to students who are pregnant or have children; such referrals are encouraged.

8.0 In the event a student indicates to a staff member that he or she is sexually active or desires information concerning contraception, the student shall be referred to his/her counselor. The counselor shall encourage the student to discuss the issue with his/her parent/legal guardian. In cases which the counselor determines that the student is engaging in sexual activity which is likely to cause imminent harm to the student, the counselor shall notify parent/legal guardian.