

Summary of BPS Expectant and Parenting Student Policy

Boston Public Schools aims to graduate all students from high school prepared for college and career success. For students who are currently expectant or parenting, it is essential to engage with students to ensure a safe, supportive learning environment and promote academic success. Moreover, we must ensure district compliance with federal Title IX law, which prohibits discrimination against students who are pregnant or parenting. This provides an overview of the key components of the BPS Policy on Expectant and Parenting Students.

Maintain confidentiality

Expectant and parenting students may choose how and when to seek services and support. School staff must follow all applicable laws on student confidentiality. Expectant and parenting students may not be forced or coerced to tell their parents or any other person of their expectant or parenting status.

Ensure a safe, supportive learning environment

Expectant and parenting students may not be excluded from any school, program, class, or activity on the basis of their expectant/parenting status. Expectant and parenting students have the right to attend school in an environment free of discrimination and harassment.

Promote academic success

Enrollment in an alternative school or program must be completely voluntary and school staff are expected to maintain high expectations for student success. School-based student support staff should collaborate with the student to develop an academic plan.

Implement sensible attendance policies

Absences related to pregnancy are considered excused absences. Student parents are entitled to a fair and reasonable parental leave after the birth of a child and may take excused absences when their child is sick or has a medical appointment during school hours. Schools are encouraged to work with expectant and parenting students to determine a school schedule that promotes regular and on-time attendance.

Use liaisons to share information

Schools with any grades 6-12 must identify a school-based liaison for expectant and parenting students to help share information. Liaisons are responsible for informing the school community about the policy and sharing resources for expectant and parenting students.