

AMENDMENTS TO LB427

Introduced by Vargas, 7.

1           1. Insert the following new sections:

2           Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

3           (1) Pregnant and parenting students face enormous challenges to  
4 completing their education. The majority of young women who become  
5 pregnant in high school leave school which detrimentally impacts their  
6 financial, social, and educational future, as well as the future of their  
7 children;

8           (2) Schools have an obligation to keep pregnant and parenting  
9 students in school;

10          (3) Schools must remove overly restrictive or inflexible absence and  
11 leave policies so that pregnant students can attend prenatal medical  
12 appointments and parenting students can attend appointments for pediatric  
13 medical care, provide opportunities for students to make up school work  
14 or allow alternative education for students who become pregnant, and make  
15 accommodations for breastfeeding or milk expression; and

16          (4) Young women should not have to choose between completing their  
17 education and parenthood.

18          Sec. 2. Beginning May 1, 2018, the school board of each school  
19 district shall adopt a written policy to be implemented at the start of  
20 the 2018-19 school year which provides for standards and guidelines to  
21 accommodate absences related to pregnancy and child care for pregnant and  
22 parenting students. Such policy shall include procedures and provisions  
23 in conformance with the minimum standards set forth in the model policy  
24 developed by the State Department of Education pursuant to section 3 of  
25 this act and may include any other procedures and provisions the school  
26 board deems appropriate.

27          Sec. 3. On or before December 1, 2017, the State Department of

1 Education shall develop and distribute a model policy to encourage the  
2 educational success of pregnant and parenting students. At a minimum,  
3 such policy shall:

4 (1) Specifically identify procedures to anticipate and provide for  
5 student absences due to pregnancy and allow students to return to school  
6 and, if applicable, participate in extracurricular activities after  
7 pregnancy;

8 (2) Provide alternative methods to keep a pregnant or parenting  
9 student in school by allowing coursework to be accessed at home or  
10 accommodating tutoring visits, online courses, or a similar supplement to  
11 classroom attendance;

12 (3) Identify alternatives for accommodating lactation by providing  
13 students with private, hygienic spaces to express breast milk during the  
14 school day; and

15 (4) Establish a procedure for schools which do not have an in-school  
16 child care facility to assist student-parents by identifying child care  
17 providers for purposes of placing their children in child care facilities  
18 which, where possible, participate in the quality rating and improvement  
19 system and meet all of the quality rating criteria for at least a step-  
20 three rating pursuant to the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act and which  
21 collaborate with the school.

22 Sec. 4. In addition to the development of a model policy, the State  
23 Department of Education shall offer training for teachers, counselors,  
24 and administrators on each school district's policy adopted under section  
25 2 of this act and the rights of pregnant and parenting students to  
26 receive equal access to education.

27 2. Renumber the remaining sections accordingly.