

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
FIRST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION
LEGISLATIVE BILL 428

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to schools; to provide duties for school districts and the State

2 Department of Education relating to policies for pregnant and parenting students;

3 and to provide for training.

4 Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

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

9 (2) Schools have a constitutional obligation to keep pregnant and parenting
10 students in school;

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

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

18 Sec. 2. Beginning May 1, 2018, each school district shall adopt a written policy to
19 be implemented at the start of school year 2018-19 which provides for standards and
20 guidelines to accommodate pregnant and parenting students. Such policy shall include

1 procedures and provisions in conformance with the minimum standards set forth in the
2 model policy developed by the State Department of Education pursuant to section 3 of
3 this act and may include any other procedures and provisions the district deems
4 appropriate.

5 Sec. 3. On or before December 1, 2017, the State Department of Education shall
6 develop and distribute a model policy to ensure the educational success of pregnant and
7 parenting students. At a minimum, such policy shall require districts to:

8 (1) Specifically anticipate and provide for student absences due to pregnancy and
9 eliminate requirements for physician approval to return to school or participate in
10 extracurricular activities after pregnancy;

11 (2) Provide for alternative methods to keep a pregnant or parenting student in
12 school by allowing coursework at home, or providing for tutoring visits, online courses,
13 or a similar supplement to classroom attendance;

14 (3) Develop a lactation accommodation policy to ensure students have private,
15 hygienic spaces to express breast milk during the school day; and

16 (4) Identify local child care providers or designate a staff person to assist student-
17 parents in placing their children in child care facilities which collaborate with the school
18 if such schools do not have an in-school child care facility.

19 Sec. 4. In addition to the development of a uniform policy, the State Department
20 of Education shall offer training for teachers, counselors, and administrators on the
21 district's policy adopted under section 2 of this act and the rights of pregnant and
22 parenting students to receive a quality education.