



## **Expectant and Parenting Students Provisions of the Every Child Achieves Act (S. 1177)**

*Providing support for expectant and parenting students improves high school graduation rates. Expectant and parenting students are often highly motivated and hard-working, and many describe becoming a parent as a turning point in their lives. With the right support and encouragement from their schools, expectant and parenting students – and their children – can and will succeed. This is a two-generation approach to improve educational outcomes and reduce poverty among families.*

### **What Do the ECAA Expectant and Parenting Students Provisions Do?**

- Requires State Educational Agencies to describe in their ESEA Title IA plans how they will provide support to local educational agencies for the education of expectant and parenting students.
- Requires Local Educational Agencies to describe in their ESEA Title IA plans how they will provide opportunities for the enrollment, attendance, and success of expectant and parenting students and the services the LEA will provide these students.

### **Why Focus on Expectant and Parenting Students in Education Reform?**

- Expectant and parenting teens face many barriers to enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school, such as discrimination, the challenge of juggling schoolwork with parenting, and a lack of access to child care, transportation, and other needed services.
- Every year in the United States, approximately 614,000 teens get pregnant. Roughly one in four girls in the U.S. get pregnant at least once before age 20.
- Pregnancy and parenting responsibilities significantly increase a student's risk of dropping out of school. In a nationwide survey of dropout youth, 33% of female dropouts and almost 20% of male dropouts said that becoming a parent was a *major* factor in their decision to leave school.
- Only 51% of women who gave birth as a teen have a high school diploma, compared to 89% of women who did not have a teen birth.
- The dropout crisis experienced by this group of students has severe short- and long-term consequences for the economic success and well-being of their families and communities, as well as our nation. Ensuring the success of expectant and parenting students matters, not only for them but also for their children, who are more likely to thrive if their parents graduate.

### **Why Should Expectant and Parenting Students be Included in Education Plans?**

- Consideration of expectant and parenting student in state and local education plans prompts educational officials to address the unique educational needs of these students, yet permits SEAs and LEAs to determine accommodations appropriate to their education systems, their expectant and parenting youth student populations, and their community environments.
- Too few states and school districts are using available policy tools – such as case management services, individualized graduation plans for students absent for an extended period due to pregnancy or childbirth, excused absences for students whose children are sick, and accommodation of students' lactation needs – to reduce barriers that expectant and parenting students face. See National Women's Law Center, [A Pregnancy Test for Schools: The Impact of Education Laws on Pregnant and Parenting Students](#) (2012).



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- Many pregnant and parenting students are still discriminated against; too few educators and other stakeholders understand how Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (which bans sex discrimination in federally funded education programs and activities) applies to pregnant and parenting students. ([Supporting the Supporting the Academic Success of Pregnant and Parenting Students Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972](#), U.S. Department of Education (2013)).

## Who Supports the Expectant and Parenting Students Provisions of ECAA Reauthorization?

(List in Formation)

### *National Organizations*

9to5

Advocates for Youth

AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

American Civil Liberties Union

American Federation of Teachers

American Medical Student Association

American School Health Association

Children's Advocacy Institute

Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund

Feminist Majority Foundation

First Focus Campaign for Children

Forward Together

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Human Rights Project for Girls (Rights4Girls)

Methodist Federation for Social Action

NAACP

National Association for Children's Behavioral Health

National Association of Counsel for Children

National Association of Secondary School Principals

National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

National Crittenton Foundation

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health

National Women's Law Center

New Leaders

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

School Social Work Association of America

Society for Public Health Education

The Center for Sexual Pleasure and Health



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### *State and Local Organizations*

Between Friends (Chicago, IL)  
Children's Trust of South Carolina  
Colorado Youth Matter  
Crittenton Services (Southern California)  
Dependency Legal Group of San Diego (CA)  
FACES SF (Family and Child Empowerment Services San Francisco)  
Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina  
Florence Crittenton Services of Colorado  
God's Will in Action (Kansas City, MO)  
Great Beginnings for Black Babies, Inc. (Inglewood, CA)  
Hawaii Youth Services Network  
Healthy Teens Coalition of Manatee County, Inc. (FL)  
Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Inwood House (New York, NY)  
Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy  
Mujeres Latinas en Accion (Chicago, IL)  
New Mexico Second Judicial District Court Judge John Romero  
New Mexico Pediatric Society  
New Mexico Public Health Association  
New Mexico Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice  
New Mexico Voices for Children  
NextGen Alliance (Florida)  
Ounce of Prevention Fund (Illinois)  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
PeterCares House (Greenbelt, MD)  
Southwest Women's Law Center (Albuquerque, NM)  
Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services (Arizona)  
Texas Association Concerned with School-Age Parenthood  
Young Women United (New Mexico)

### **Points of Contact**

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