

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1161

4  
5 By: Representatives Hudson, Pilkington, Ennett, D. Garner, Gramlich, McCullough, Ray

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE SUPPORT FOR PREGNANT AND  
9 PARENTING STUDENTS ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

12 TO CREATE THE SUPPORT FOR PREGNANT AND  
14 PARENTING STUDENTS ACT.

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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 2, is amended  
20 to add an additional section to read as follows:

21 6-18-234. Support for Pregnant and Parenting Students Act.

22 (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Support for  
23 Pregnant and Parenting Students Act".

24 (b) Each public school district and open-enrollment public charter  
25 school shall include in its attendance policy the requirement that the public  
26 school district or open-enrollment public charter school shall:

27 (1) Excuse absences due to conditions that are related to  
28 pregnancy or parenting, including without limitation:

29 (A) Labor, delivery, and recovery;

30 (B) A prenatal and postnatal medical appointment and other  
31 medically necessary, pregnancy-related absences;

32 (C) The illness or medical appointment of a child  
33 belonging to a parent who is enrolled at the public school district or open-  
34 enrollment public charter school; and

35 (D) A legal appointment related to pregnancy or parenting,  
36 including without limitation appointments regarding:



- (i) Adoption;
- (ii) Custody; and
- (iii) Visitation;

(2)(A) Provide at least ten (10) school days of excused absences for both a parenting mother and a parenting father after the birth of a child.

(B) The absences required under subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section shall not count towards the requirement that a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school dismiss or drop from its attendance records a student who is absent from daily attendance for more than ten (10) consecutive school days under § 6-18-213(f).

(3)(A) At the conclusion of a pregnancy-related or parenting-related period of absence, allow a student to make up missed work in a reasonable amount of time that shall not be less than the number of days the student was absent.

(B) A student may choose from various options to make up missed work, including without limitation:

(i) Retaking a semester at the public school district or open-enrollment public charter school in which he or she is enrolled;

(ii) Participating in an online course credit recovery program;

(iii) Being granted six (6) weeks to continue at the same pace and finish the semester at a later date, provided that the student may:

(a) Complete his or her coursework within the current school year; or

(b) Attend previously scheduled summer school classes made available by the public school district or open-enrollment public charter school in which he or she is enrolled; and

(iv) Receiving home-based instruction services;

(4) Provide that, for absences or checkouts for reasons listed under subdivision (b)(1) of this section, the following shall be accepted as validation for the absence or checkout:

(A) Documentation from a student's physician; or

(B) Permission from a parent, legal guardian, or person

1 standing in loco parentis;

2 (5)(A) Provide for reasonable accommodations for a lactating  
3 student on the public school district or open-enrollment public charter  
4 school campus to express breast milk, breastfeed, or address other  
5 breastfeeding needs, including without limitation:

6 (i) Access to a private and secure room other than a  
7 restroom to express breast milk or breastfeed a child;

8 (ii) Permission to bring a breast pump and any other  
9 equipment used to express breast milk to school;

10 (iii) Access to a power source for a breast pump or  
11 any other equipment used to express breast milk; and

12 (iv) Access to a place to safely store breast milk.

13 (B) However, this section does not require a public school  
14 district or open-enrollment public charter school to provide a lactating  
15 student additional excused absences from the school day to breastfeed a child  
16 off the public school district or open-enrollment public charter school  
17 campus;

18 (6) Ensure that a lactating student shall be provided a  
19 reasonable amount of time to accommodate the need to express breast milk; and

20 (7) Provide that a student shall not incur an academic penalty  
21 as a result of the use, during the school day, of the reasonable  
22 accommodations provided under subdivisions (b)(5) and (6) of this section and  
23 shall be provided the opportunity to make up any work missed due to the use  
24 of the reasonable accommodations provided under subdivisions (b)(5) and (6)  
25 of this section.

26 (c)(1) A public school district that is associated with a public high  
27 school that provides access to child care either on campus or off campus  
28 shall adopt a policy that requires information regarding the child care  
29 provided on campus or off campus be provided to student mothers and student  
30 fathers.

31 (2) If a public high school does not provide child care either  
32 on campus or off campus, the public school district associated with the  
33 public high school shall adopt a policy that identifies and notifies students  
34 of child care providers available to the students.

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