

The School Committee wishes to preserve educational opportunities for those students who may become pregnant and/or take on parenting responsibilities. Equal educational opportunity is the right of all students without regard to pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, including but not limited to, lactation or the need to express breast milk for a nursing child, or parenting status.

Pregnant students are permitted to remain in regular classes and participate in extracurricular activities with non-pregnant students throughout their pregnancy and after giving birth are permitted to return to the same academic and extracurricular program as before delivery.

The school district does not require a pregnant student to obtain the certification of a physician verifying that the student is physically and emotionally able to continue in school. That said, the school district encourages the student to communicate any medical needs as they arise, in the event that accommodations in the student’s educational program are necessary. For a student participating in interscholastic athletics, the school district may require a reevaluation by the school or by the student’s personal/private doctor to determine if the student is physically fit for the sport. The school district may also request the certification of a physician as needed to facilitate providing the student with any needed support or accommodations.

Every effort will be made to see that the educational program of the student is disrupted as little as possible; that health counseling services, as well as instruction, are offered; that return to school after leave is encouraged; that appropriate accommodations are made for lactation or the need to express breast milk for a nursing child; and that every opportunity to complete high school is provided.

Massachusetts General Law References:

- MGL 71:84 – Discipline of Students for Conduct or Matters Unrelated to School-sponsored Activities
- MGL 76:1 – Regulation of School Attendance; Approval of Private Schools; Private School Transportation
- MGL 151B:4 – Unlawful Discrimination because of Race, Color, Religious Creed, National Origin, Ancestry or Sex

Westford Public Schools Policy References:

- P5318 – Exclusion for Non-School Related Concerns
- P5401 – Interscholastic Athletics

Massachusetts Association of School Committee References:

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 Policy Revised: April 8, 2019

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Westford, Massachusetts