I. **PURPOSE**: To provide information and guidelines for educational programs/services for pregnant and parenting students enrolled in Prince George’s County Public Schools.

II. **POLICY**: The Board of Education is firmly committed to the academic achievement of all students, without regard for their race or ethnicity, gender, religion, economic status, culture, language or special needs. (Board Policy 0118)

III. **BACKGROUND**: The Prince George’s County Public School System is required to provide appropriate school programs/services for all students, including pregnant and parenting students whether married or unmarried. These programs/services shall include provisions for counseling, pupil personnel work, social work, and psychological services, as needed.

IV. **PROCEDURES**:

A. PGCPS will not discriminate against an enrolled student in academic or non-academic activities because of pregnancy, birth of a child, miscarriage, or termination of pregnancy.

B. Pregnant Student Over the Compulsory School Age

1. A student over the compulsory school age who has not completed high school may elect to remain in the regular school program and may not be involuntarily excluded from any part of the program or withdrawn from school.

2. Any decision to modify the program or provide the student an appropriate alternative educational program as described in section “D” below, will be reached in joint consultation with the student, appropriate educational and medical personnel, and the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s), if the student elects to include the parent(s)/guardian(s).

C. Pregnant Student Under Compulsory School Age

1. A pregnant student who is under compulsory school age may voluntarily withdraw from the regular school program, provided that the student enrolls in an appropriate educational program planned for that student, as described in section “D” below.
2. The decision concerning an appropriate educational program will be reached in joint consultation with the student, the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s), and appropriate educational and medical personnel.

D. Appropriate Educational Programs and Services

1. Pregnant and parenting students of any age shall be informed of available services, inclusive of but not limited to health, psychological, counseling, pupil personnel, and educational services.

2. Appropriate educational services may include the following:
   a. Continuation in the regular school program as long as the physician deems appropriate;
   b. Modified school day based on individual needs;
   c. Enrollment in Evening High School;
   d. Home and Hospital Teaching (refer to Administrative Procedure 5011);
   e. Virtual Learning Opportunities; or
   f. A combination of the above programs.

3. The school system shall cooperate with other State, county, and local agencies and with private medical services so that the pregnant student receives appropriate medical, psychological, and social services during and after pregnancy.

E. Attendance

1. Pregnancy- and parenting-related conditions are lawful/excused absences for:
   a. Labor;
   b. Delivery;
   c. Recovery; and
   d. Prenatal and postnatal medical appointments.
2. A parenting student is allowed a minimum of ten (10) lawful/excused absences days after the birth of the student’s child.

3. A parenting student’s absences due to an illness or a medical appointment of the student’s child are lawful/excused absences. After four days of such absences, during a school year, a physician’s note may be required.

4. A student’s absences due to a legal appointment involving the pregnant or parenting student that is related to family law proceedings - including adoption, custody, and visitation - are lawful/excused absences.

F. Consultation with Student

1. An Educational Plan for Pregnant Students form (DDS-9) shall be completed.

2. Confidentiality and Disclosure:

   a. A student under the age of 18 has the same capacity as an adult to consent to treatment for, or advice about pregnancy. This treatment or advice is confidential and may not be disclosed without the student’s consent.

   b. If a student is pregnant, any employee who suspects that the student was sexually abused by the parent, adoptive parent, or other person with permanent or temporary custody shall report the suspected abuse to Child Protective Services as soon as possible in accordance with Administrative Procedure 5145 – Reporting Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect.

   c. When a student seeks counseling regarding pregnancy concerns, the first goal is to encourage the student to involve the family. Staff members working with the pregnant student will provide information regarding community resources available to them.

G. Responsibilities of the Principal

1. The principal of each school will take the necessary steps to ensure that parents, guardians, students, and staff members are aware of the procedures contained herein. The principal of each school will
inform parents at PTA meetings and staff at faculty meetings of the requirements contained within this administrative procedure.

2. Such measures may utilize student handbooks, PTA discussions, faculty meetings, etc.

V. **MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE:** Schools will maintain a copy of the Educational Plan for each pregnant student in the health and cumulative folders. The Office of Health Services tracks and maintains the number of pregnant students each year for state reporting.

VI. **RELATED PROCEDURES:**
Administrative Procedure 5011, Home and Hospital Teaching;
Administrative Procedure 5113, Student Attendance, Absence, and Truancy;
Administrative Procedure 5113.5, Home Schooling;
Administrative Procedure 5121.2, Grading and Reporting for Middle Schools, Grade Six Through Grade Eight;
Administrative Procedure 5121.3, Grading and Reporting for High Schools Grade 9 through Grade 12;
Administrative Procedure 6150, Student Enrollment in Courses and Educational Requirements and Options in Secondary Schools.

VII. **LEGAL REFERENCE:** 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.21(c), 106.31, 106.40; Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-301; Annotated Code of Maryland, Health Article §20-102; COMAR 13A.04.18.01 and 13A.05.05.01-04.

VIII. **MAINTENANCE AND UPDATE OF THESE PROCEDURES:** These procedures originate with the Department of Student Services, Office of Professional School Counseling Services. A review of these procedures is recommended every three (3) years or as deemed necessary.

IX. **CANCELLATIONS AND SUPERSEDEURS:** This Administrative Procedure cancels and supersedes Administrative Procedure 5119.3, dated September 2, 2008.

X. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2019

Attachment: Educational Programs for Pregnant and Parenting Students (DDS-9)

Distribution: Lists 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, and 12