

School Age Parent

Wisconsin law defines a school age parent as any individual, inclusive of all genders, under the age of 21 who is not a high school graduate and is a parent, an expectant parent or a person who has been pregnant within the immediately preceding 120 (calendar) days. Wis. Stat. § 115.91.

School districts are required by state law to make program modifications available to school-age parents, both mothers and fathers, which will allow them to continue their education (Wis. Stat. sec. 115.915). State law also prohibits public schools from denying admission to or participation in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational, or other program or activity based upon pregnancy or marital or parental status (Wis. Stat. sec. 118.13).

Referral

School age parent referrals may be obtained from the building principal or designee. The Director of Pupil Services is designated as the school age parent coordinator and to receive referrals. Professional employees of the school district are required to refer any student if they have reasonable cause to believe the student is a school age parent. Permission for the referral must be obtained from the student or a minor student's parent/guardian prior to making the referral.

Referrals are made using the *School Age Parent Referral Form*. After receiving written or verbal permission from the student or a minor student's parent, the referral is submitted to Coordinator for School Age Parents at the District Office. A copy of the *School Age Parent Referral Form* will be forwarded to the appointed case manager.

School Age Parent Education Plan

A meeting including the following people will be convened to develop the *School Age Parent Education Plan*: the case manager, the student, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) if the student is under age 18, the student's teachers, and pupil services staff. These individuals are expected to have the expertise to discuss the student's current educational program and what program modifications, if any, are needed to accommodate a school age parent's pregnancy, child care requirements, or part-time employment necessary to support her or his child. Plans should be developed for both school age mothers and fathers. Examples of program modifications that have been provided by school districts include but are not limited to:

- a modified or shortened class schedule,
- preferential enrollment in classes addressing the school age parents' identified needs, e.g., family and consumer education class on parenting,
- an extended school year,
- an additional school year, i.e., fifth year senior, and/or

- granting academic credit for correspondence or community-based classes, e.g., physical education credit for a birth preparation class.

Placement options may include any of the following:

- continuation in the regular school environment with supportive services provided by pupil services staff;
- attendance in an educational program designed specifically to meet the needs of the school age parent;
- homebound instruction;
- hospital instruction; and
- other programs and services which may be available to students identified as at risk under Wis. Stat. § 118.153.

Participation in the plan is voluntary and the educational and service program plan must have the written consent of the student and the student's parents/guardian, if the student is under the age of 18 years. Wis. Admin. Code § PI 19.04(5) or is not otherwise emancipated, e.g. married.

The *School Age Parent Education Plan* will be shared with the parent/guardian and student. Furthermore, all school personnel with implementation responsibilities should be informed of the existence and particulars of the *School Age Parent Education Plan*.