

Pregnant and Parenting Students Access to Education Act S. XXXX (Udall-NM)/H.R. XXXX (Polis-CO)

Why Focus on Pregnant and Parenting Students in Education Reform?

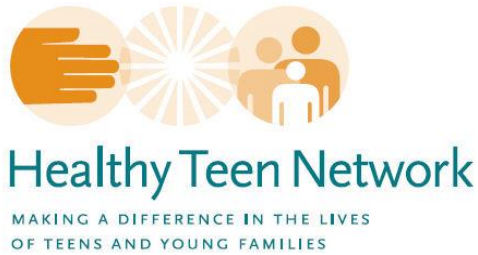
- Every year in the United States, there are approximately 750,000 teen pregnancies. Nearly 3 in 10 girls in the U.S. get pregnant at least once before age 20.
- Pregnancy and parenting responsibilities significantly increase a student's risk of dropping out of school. In a nationwide survey of dropout 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.
- Parenting responsibilities impede students' graduation. 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 pregnant and parenting students is critical, not only for them but also for their children, who will be more likely to eventually drop out if their parents have done so.
- Pregnant and parenting teens face many barriers to enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school, such as discrimination, the challenge of juggling schoolwork with parenting responsibilities, and lack of access to child care, transportation, and other critical services.

Why Support the Pregnant and Parenting Students Access to Education Act?

- Providing supports for pregnant and parenting students can go a long way toward improving high school graduation rates, especially because pregnant and parenting students often are highly motivated. In the survey of dropout youth mentioned above, those who left school to care for a family member or because they became a parent were more likely than any other group of dropouts to say they would have worked harder if their schools had demanded more of them and provided the necessary supports.
- Eighty-one percent of all births to teens were first births and 16% were second births. The remainder were births to teens who had two or more previous births. For teen parents already struggling to finish their education, having another child can make it that much harder.

What Does the Pregnant and Parenting Students Access to Education Act Do?

- Authorizes necessary resources for states and school districts to ensure that pregnant and parenting students get the support and encouragement they need to stay in school and graduate college or career ready.
- Enables states to create a state plan for pregnant and parenting students, provide professional development and technical assistance to school districts, coordinate services with other state agencies, and disseminate information, among other activities.
- Establishes a state coordinator and school district liaisons for the education of pregnant and parenting students.
- Requires school district grantees to provide academic support services for pregnant and parenting students; assist students in gaining access to affordable child care, early childhood education, and transportation services; engage in student outreach, recruitment and retention; provide professional development for school personnel; and revise school policies and practices to remove barriers and encourage pregnant and parenting students to continue their education.



- Allows districts to provide parenting and life skills classes; case management services; pregnancy prevention strategies; referrals to primary health care, family planning, mental health, substance abuse, housing assistance, legal aid, mentoring, or other supportive services needed by the student; as well as to address school climate issues, including illegal discrimination against and stigmatization of pregnant and parenting students.
- Collects and reports data on pregnant and parenting students annually, including educational outcomes, and requires a rigorous evaluation of the program.

Points of Contact

- **Healthy Teen Network** - Bob Reeg, bob@HealthyTeenNetwork.org, 202.265.7271
- **National Women's Law Center** - Lara Kaufmann, lkaufmann@nwlc.org, 202.588.5180

Who Supports the Pregnant and Parenting Student Access to Education Act? (List in Formation)

National Organizations

- 9to5
- ACCEPT
- Advocates for Youth
- Alliance for Excellent Education
- American Association of University Women (AAUW)
- American Civil Liberties Union
- American Federation of Teachers
- American Medical Student Association
- American Psychological Association
- American Public Health Association
- American Sexual Health Association
- Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
- Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum
- Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
- Break the Cycle
- Catholics for Choice
- CLASP (Center for Law and Social Policy)
- Children's Advocacy Institute
- Community Action Partnership
- Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
- Dream Enterprises Health Education Services
- Equal Rights Advocates
- Faith for Change
- Feminist Majority Foundation



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- Friends Committee on National Legislation
- Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network
- Global Justice Institute
- Healthy Teen Network
- Human Rights Project for Girls
- League of United Latin American Citizens
- Methodist Federation for Social Action
- Metropolitan Community Churches
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund
- Ms. Foundation for Women
- NAACP
- NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund Inc.
- National Association for Bilingual Education
- National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
- National Association of Counsel for Children
- National Association of Secondary School Principals
- National Center for Law and Economic Justice
- National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc
- National Council of Jewish Women
- National Council of La Raza
- National Crittenton Foundation
- National Education Association
- National Network for Youth
- National Organization for Women
- National Urban League
- National Women's Conference Committee
- National Women's Law Center
- Our Bodies Ourselves
- Physicians for Reproductive Health
- Planned Parenthood Federation of America
- Public Justice Center
- Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
- Religious Institute
- RESULTS
- Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
- School Social Work Association of America
- Sexuality Education and Information Council of the United States
- Sisters of Charity Nazareth Central Leadership
- Smart Stop Learning Center



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- Teen Success
- The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy
- The United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
- Unitarian Universalist Association
- Women of Reform Judaism
- Women's Law Project
- Women's Sports Foundation
- World Knowledge Bank
- YWCA USA

State and Local Organizations

- California Center for Rural Policy
- California WIC Association
- Brighter Beginnings (Oakland, CA)
- Clinica Sierra Vista (Bakersfield, CA)
- Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth (CA)
- Great Beginnings for Black Babies (Inglewood, CA)
- Hillsides (Los Angeles, CA)
- Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco (CA)
- Los Angeles Community Legal Center and Educational (CA)
- New Voices Are Rising Project (Oakland, CA)
- Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment (Oakland, CA)
- Dependency Legal Group of San Diego (CA)
- National Council of Jewish Women-California
- San Francisco Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CA)
- Watts/Century Latino Organization (Los Angeles, CA)
- Restorative Schools Vision Project (Sacramento, CA)
- TeenNow California
- Advocacy Denver (CO)
- Colorado Youth Matter
- Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition (CT)
- Mansfield Housing Authority (CT)
- DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
- RESULTS DC
- Center for Independent Living of South Florida, Inc.
- Florida Association for Infant Mental Health
- Healthy Teens Coalition of Manatee County (Manatee County, FL)
- Georgia Women for a Change



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- Hawaii Youth Services Network
- Centro de Comunidad y Justicia (Boise, ID)
- Alternatives (Chicago, IL)
- Arab American Family Services (Bridgeview, IL)
- *Civitas* ChildLaw Center, Loyola University Chicago School of Law (Chicago, IL)
- Chicago Child Care Society (IL)
- Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health
- Marillac House (Chicago, IL)
- Women Employed (Chicago, IL)
- Child and Family Policy Center (IA)
- EyesOpenIowa
- Crisis Center & Women's Shelter (Ottumwa, IA)
- Southwest Iowa Latino Resource Center
- GWIA (God's Will In Action) (Kansas City area, KS and MO)
- WISDOM (Well-Instructed Students Devoted to Our Messiah) (Kansas City area, KS and MO)
- KAPCHS (Kingsway Academy Private Christian High School) (Kansas City area, KS and MO)
- CSH (Career Search Hotline) (Kansas City area, KS and MO)
- CPIBT (Committee to Preserve Independence Bus Transit) (Kansas City area, KS and MO)
- CACTF (Citizens Alternative Crime Task Force) (Kansas City area, KS and MO)
- SSL (South Sea Linden) (Kansas City area, KS and MO)
- PAL (Platform for Affordable Livability) (Kansas City area, KS and MO)
- Kentucky Youth Advocates
- Louisiana Housing Alliance
- Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore (MD)
- PeterCares House (Greenbelt, MD)
- Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy
- Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health
- Michigan's Children
- Work Services Inc (Jackson, MI)
- Minnesota AIDS Project
- Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center
- Litchfield Public Schools #465 Early Childhood Programs (MN)
- Center for People in Need (Lincoln, NE)
- Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Justice Team (NE)
- Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
- Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (NJ)
- Honor Our Pueblo Existence (H.O.P.E.) (Española, NM)



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- New Mexico Alliance for School Based Health Care
- New Mexico Teen Pregnancy Coalition
- Young Women United (NM)
- Southwest Women's Law Center (NM)
- New Mexico Voices for Children
- Brooklyn Young Mothers Collective (NY)
- Inwood House (New York, NY)
- NMPP/Community Health Worker Program (New York, NY)
- Student Advocacy (Westchester and Putnam Counties, NY)
- Action for Children North Carolina
- Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of North Carolina
- YWCA Greensboro (NC)
- Democratic Socialists of Central Ohio
- Ohio Chapter of the National Organization for Women
- Ohio NOW and Education and Legal Fund
- AFT-Oklahoma
- SMART (Single Mother Academic Resource Team) (OK)
- Pennsylvania Council of Churches
- Allegheny Valley Association of Churches (Natrona Heights, PA)
- Division of Adolescent Medicine, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC (PA)
- Maternity Care Coalition (Philadelphia, PA)
- SEIU Local 668 (Harrisburg, PA)
- International Institute for Restorative Practices (Bethlehem, PA)
- Woonsocket Head Start Child Development Association (RI)
- Malcolm X Center for Self Determination (Greenville, SC)
- South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
- Healthy and Free Tennessee
- Cornucopia Network/NJ/TN Chapter, Caney Fork Headwaters Association, Cumberland Countians for Peace & Justice Network for Environmental & Economic Responsibility Of United Church of Christ (Pleasant Hill, TN)
- CHOICES (Memphis, TN)
- Memphis Teen Vision (TN)
- Education Equals Making Community Connections (Plantersville, TX)
- North Dallas Chapter of National Organization for Women (Plano/Dallas, TX)
- Texans Care for Children
- Texas Association Concerned with School-Age Parenthood
- Voices for Vermont's Children
- Virginia Organizing
- Lewis County Family Resource Network (WV)