

1 AN ACT

2 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; REQUIRING SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND
3 CHARTER SCHOOLS TO ESTABLISH POLICIES THAT PROVIDE EXCUSED
4 ABSENCES FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS FOR DOCUMENTED
5 PREGNANCIES, FOR THE DOCUMENTED BIRTH OF THE STUDENT'S CHILD
6 AND FOR ABSENCES OF A PARENTING STUDENT TO CARE FOR THE
7 STUDENT'S CHILD WHO IS UNDER THE AGE OF THIRTEEN; REQUIRING
8 STUDENTS TO BE GRANTED TIME FOR MAKE-UP WORK; REQUIRING
9 DISTRIBUTION OF POLICIES TO ALL SECONDARY EDUCATION STUDENTS.

10
11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

12 SECTION 1. A new section of Chapter 22, Article 12 NMSA
13 1978 is enacted to read:

14 "EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS.--

15 A. Each school district and charter school shall
16 maintain an attendance policy that:

17 (1) provides at least ten days of excused
18 absences for a student who provides documentation of the
19 birth of the student's child and provides excused absences
20 for any additional days missed by a pregnant or parenting
21 student for which a longer period of absence is deemed
22 medically necessary by the student's physician; provided that
23 the student shall be allowed a time period to make up the
24 work that the student missed that equals the number of days
25 the student was absent for the birth of a child; and

1 (2) provides four days per semester of
2 excused absences, in addition to the number of allowed
3 absences for all students, for a student who provides
4 appropriate documentation of pregnancy or that the student is
5 the parent of a child under the age of thirteen needing care;
6 and allows the student a time period to make up the work that
7 the student missed that equals the number of days the student
8 was absent.

9 B. The pregnant or parenting student is
10 responsible for communicating the student's pregnancy and
11 parenting status to the appropriate school personnel if the
12 student chooses to disclose the information.

13 C. The school district or charter school shall
14 provide a copy of the pregnant and parenting student absence
15 policies to all students in middle, junior high and high
16 schools." _____

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25