

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY FOR PREGNANT, EXPECTANT, AND PARENTING STUDENTS

Sponsored by: Delegate Michele Guyton and Senator Mary Washington

THE FACTS:

Pregnant and parenting students

86.6% Of students graduated from Maryland Public Schools with their cohort in 2019, a lower rate than previous years. [1]

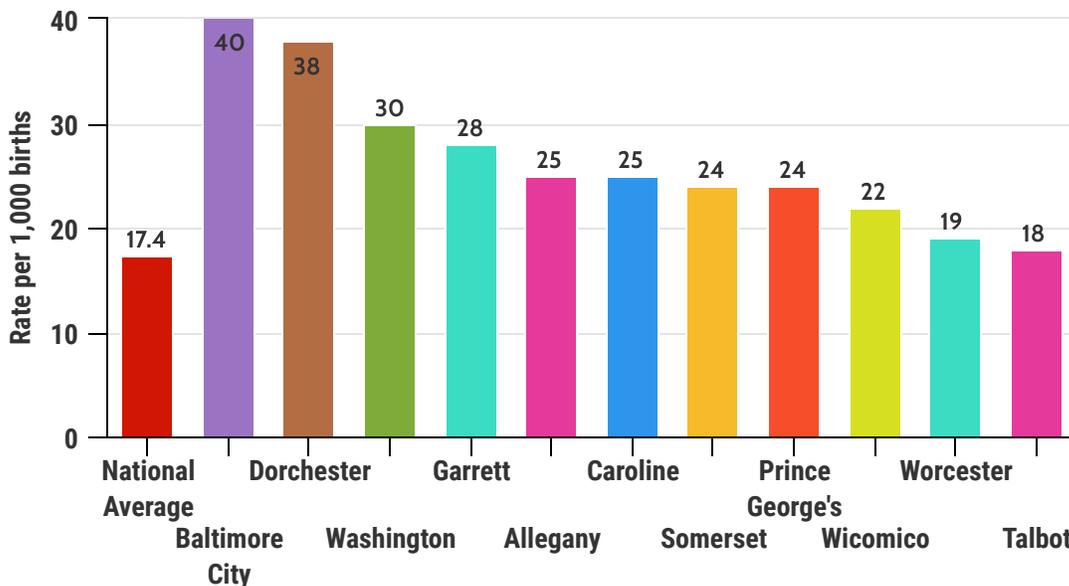
50% Of parenting mothers achieve a GED by 22 years old as opposed to 89% of non-parenting women nationally [2]

2645 There were 2645 births to teenagers under the age of 19 in Maryland in 2018. [3]

Maryland's public schools reported that **49 students** formally withdrew from school during the 2017-2018 academic year for "pregnancy" or "parenting" reasons [4], while nationwide, approximately **only 40% of teen mothers finish high school.** [5]

Pregnant and Parenting Students in Maryland

Maryland Counties With Teen Birth Rates Above the National Average [6]



✔ **11 Counties in Maryland** have teen birth rates higher than the national average

✔ **In all Maryland counties except Allegany**, Hispanic or Black women aged 15-19 make up the greatest proportion of teen births.

✔ Based on the state and county data, **these statistics dramatically under-represent the true number of students who were pushed out of school** due to pregnancy or parenting responsibilities and needs.

*Pregnancy rates are expressed as per 1,000 births in aggregated data collected between 2011-2017 for women aged 15-19 in Maryland.

WHAT THIS LEGISLATION DOES:

HB401/SB438: Pregnant and Parenting Students Policies

This policy will:

Require the state department of education to establish a policy to support the educational and parenting goals of students and improve their educational outcomes by:

- Providing safe and private lactation spaces in each school district that includes a sink, table top space, outlet for breast pump, and **is NOT a bathroom or closet**
- Supporting training for school staff and personnel to ensure they are giving pregnant and parenting students appropriate support and guidance
- Establishing a liaison for pregnant and parenting students within each school that will assist in finding:
 - Childcare
 - transportation options
- Incorporating the attendance and excused absence policy passed in 2017 allowing for excused absences for pregnant and parenting students for medical and legal reasons. **It also allows break time from class needed for breastfeeding and to attend urgent child care responsibilities.**

HB359/SB437: Maryland Longitudinal Data Tracking System

This policy will:

Include data on pregnant, expectant, and parenting students (PEPS) in the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center in order to track and monitor students in an anonymous way to assess their educational outcomes.

- The Data Tracking System will include **de-identified data** in which parent and student identity information including the State Assigned Student Identifier number and Social Security number have been removed from collection.

HB0439/SB470: University of Maryland Data Collection Partnership

The University of Maryland's Institute for Innovation will work with school districts to collect data on educational outcomes for PEPS and disseminate data over a 3-year period.



- Anonymous data will be collected regarding the number of PEPS in each school district, the number of students seeking and attaining diplomas, duration of enrollment, truancy claims, established support services before and during HB0401 implementation for PEPS, and demographic characteristics of each student.
- Data collection methods will ensure the privacy of PEPS and will be advised by an independent body of experts and university researchers.
- The school districts include Baltimore City, Prince George's, Charles, Washington, and Wicomico.
- The study will then document and evaluate professional development activities for PEPS, and create a mid-point and final report detailing recommendations for future policy efforts and school district planning based on study findings.

For more information, contact Diana Philip at diana@prochoicemd.org

[1] Maryland Report Card. 2019 Progress Report. https://reportcard.msde.maryland.gov/PrintReports/2019/StateReports/English/2019MDReportCard_ENG.pdf

[2] National Women's Law Center: A Pregnancy Test for Schools Report (2012)

[3] Power to Decide: The Campaign to End Unplanned Pregnancy <https://powertodecide.org/what-we-do/information/national-state-data/maryland>

[4] Shuger, L. (2012). Teen Pregnancy and High School Dropout: What Communities are Doing to Address These Issues.

[5] Summary of Attendance for Maryland Public Schools 2017-2018 <http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Documents/DCAA/SSP/20172018Student/2018Attendance.pdf>

[6] Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (2019). County Health Rankings, Maryland 2011-2017. Teen Birth.

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/maryland/2019/measure/factors/14/data?sort=sc-2>