

## **RIGHT TO LIFE**

Schools shall uphold the teachings and disciplines of the Roman Catholic Church concerning the dignity of human life and the right of the unborn child. Compromise of these doctrines, by word or deed, may be cause for immediate expulsion.

### Abortion

Students who are known to have procured an abortion, or participated directly in such a decision, may be required to withdraw from school.

### Pregnancy

In keeping with the belief and practice of the Roman Catholic Church, abortion is not an option for pregnant women. Diocesan schools believe, support, and emphasize the need to make moral choices in compliance with the doctrines and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church regarding sexual abstinence, pre-marital sex, abortion, and marriage. Diocesan schools recognize their moral responsibility toward the pregnant student, the student body, and the general public.

The pastor, the principal and the school chaplain (if applicable) shall make every effort to assist and support the pregnant student and the student known to have fathered the child and their parents/guardians in continuing the students' Catholic education program.

### Married Students

Students enrolled in Diocesan schools are expected to be unmarried.

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### Administrative Regulation for Pregnancy (female)

1. Pregnancy is not a condition that constitutes a reason for exclusion or expulsion.
2. When school personnel are informed that a student is pregnant, designated personnel shall meet with the pregnant student and her family to inform them of the information given to them indicating that their daughter is pregnant.
3. School personnel will inform the student and her family of the services that are available within the Catholic community for medical and neo-natal care.
4. School personnel will review the student's schedule and discuss what adjustments need to be made to enable the student to continue her educational plan.
5. Pregnant students are expected to exercise appropriate discretion regarding the pregnancy in relationship to members of the student body.
6. Out of concern for the health of the pregnant student and her child, pregnant students are not eligible to participate in any athletic, cheerleading or dance team activities sponsored by the

school. Participation in all other school-sponsored activities shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the school principal in consultation with the canonical pastor/pastors' board.

7. Children born of a female student are not to be brought to the campus during the school day. Permission must be obtained from the school principal for the child to attend other school-sponsored events.

#### Administrative Regulation for Pregnancy (male)

1. Fathering a child is not a condition that constitutes a reason for exclusion or expulsion.
2. When school personnel are informed that a student has fathered a child, designated personnel shall meet with the young man and his family to inform them of the situation.
3. School personnel will inform the student and his family of support services that are available within the Catholic community.
4. Participation in school-sponsored activities shall be determined on a case by case basis by the school principal.
5. Children born to a male student are not to be brought to the campus during the school day. Permission must be obtained from the school principal for the child to attend other school-sponsored events.

#### Administrative Regulations for Married Students

1. Any marriage contracted by a student attending a Diocesan school must be a marriage that is considered valid by the Roman Catholic Church.
2. Students who have contracted invalid marriages are no longer eligible for enrollment and will be required to withdraw.
3. Students who have contracted an invalid marriage and have had the marriage validated by the Church may be re-admitted on a case-by-case basis.