



ReasonsPlus

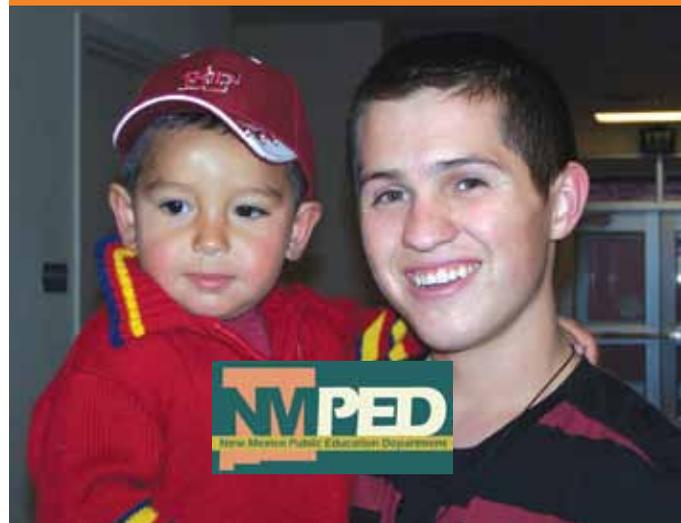
Positive Support for
Pregnant and Parenting Teens

ReasonsPlus is a statewide effort to provide positive support to pregnant and parenting teens. The cornerstone is a comprehensive website, www.ReasonsPlus.com, which provides a variety of resources and information specifically for pregnant and parenting teens to help reduce barriers to achieving academic success.

NM GRADS (New Mexico Graduation Reality and Dual-Role Skills) is a school-based program for pregnant and parenting teens that provides support and numerous resources for achieving graduation and independence, and reducing risk-taking behaviors.



School Counselors Supporting Educational Success

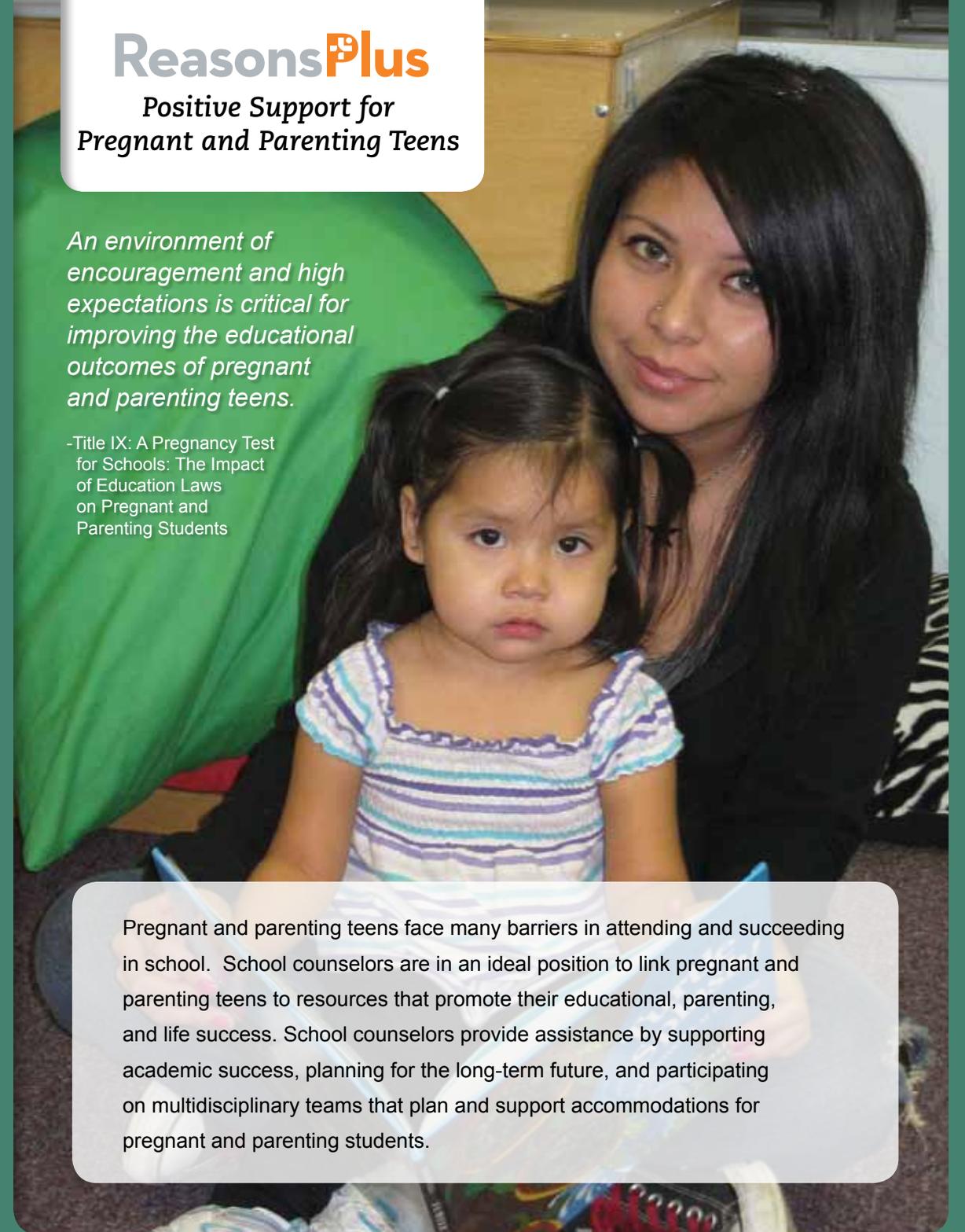


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Positive Support for
Pregnant and Parenting Teens

An environment of encouragement and high expectations is critical for improving the educational outcomes of pregnant and parenting teens.

-Title IX: A Pregnancy Test for Schools: The Impact of Education Laws on Pregnant and Parenting Students



Pregnant and parenting teens face many barriers in attending and succeeding in school. School counselors are in an ideal position to link pregnant and parenting teens to resources that promote their educational, parenting, and life success. School counselors provide assistance by supporting academic success, planning for the long-term future, and participating on multidisciplinary teams that plan and support accommodations for pregnant and parenting students.

CONTACT INFORMATION



Kids First, New Mexico Wins!

PED

School and Family Support Bureau
505-827-1803
www.ped.state.nm.us



NM GRADS

P.O. Box 1884
Socorro, NM 87801
575-835-1785
www.nmgrads.org



**This document has been endorsed by
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What School Counselors Can Do

Develop Supportive Relationships with Pregnant and Parenting Teens by

- being someone to talk to—teens need safe places to talk without judgment;
- encouraging postpartum teens to return to school; and,
- promoting school achievement, attendance, and engagement—involved teens are less likely to have a repeat pregnancy and engage in risky behaviors.



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Positive Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens



Support Academic Success of Pregnant and Parenting Teens and Identify Postsecondary Opportunities by

- embracing high academic expectations for pregnant and parenting teens;
- participating on Student Assistance Teams, Section 504 teams, and Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams as needed;
- ensuring the Next Step Plan is current and addresses educational and career needs and goals;
- assisting in development of plan for students to stay current during extended absences;
- offering assistance in developing a career technical education program (e.g., school career cluster classes, career pathway courses, dual credit classes, industry certification, etc);
- discussing options to further education after high school, including career technical schools, colleges, universities and military;
- increasing awareness of non-traditional careers which often have greater financial rewards;
- linking students to opportunities for mentoring, internships, job shadowing, and employment training; and
- arranging field trips to career and technical programs, college campuses and workplaces.



Collaborate with Students, Family, School Staff, and the Community to

- identify student teen parent needs, address barriers to access and coordinate needed services;
- support academic success of students before and after pregnancy;
- assist with free or reduced meals;
- advocate for schools to offer a parenting class as a high school elective course to support the learning of teen parents and all students;
- monitor educational progress, including grades, test scores, class participation, and homework completion;
- assess student perception of support from school staff and support opportunities for school connectedness;
- connect students with needed support such as tutoring, study skills training, and peer homework groups; and,
- advocate for alternative programs that help teen parents succeed such as self-paced instruction, homebound services, and credit recovery programs.



Increase the Awareness of Available Services for Pregnant and Parenting Teens and their Children Offered at School and in the Community including

- school-based teen parent programs like GRADS;
- prenatal care and family planning services;
- primary health care, behavioral health and substance abuse services;
- well-child care and developmental screenings;
- vision and oral health services;
- case management and family support services;
- teen parent support groups and young father programs;
- quality and affordable child care;
- parenting and life skills education, including early childhood programs like home visiting; and,
- transportation, housing, and economic assistance.

