

College Financial Obligations After a Pregnant or Parenting Student Elects to Withdraw
Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education
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Question: What are the Title IX financial requirements related to students who withdraw from school due to pregnancy?

Example: *We have a student who has withdrawn from all classes due to her pregnancy. She had received full financial aid for the semester. Due to her withdraw, the financial aid was pro-rated based on her last date of attendance. The pro-ration resulted in a bill for the student, in that she now must pay the college for the balance on her account that financial aid can no longer cover. The student believes that Title IX entitles her to have this financial obligation eliminated.*

Do we have conflicting federal laws? We obviously must comply with the federal financial aid regulations, and return funds that the student is no longer eligible to receive. The college does not have a policy of financial forgiveness for medical withdraws, only consideration for tuition credit. The college does not award tuition credit if the student owes money on their account. Is it improper for the college to seek the balance due from students who withdraw due to pregnancy? If so, it appears we will have to assume these financial losses, and perhaps do so for students who withdraw for other medical reasons.

Question: What are the financial obligations if a student elects to withdraw from college for the semester? It would appear that we are to follow the same college policies in place for students who withdraw for other medical reasons. Additional clarification:

Answer: Each case is fact-specific and each Title IX determination is based on the particular set of facts presented. Although we do not give legal advisory opinions, we are happy to provide information on how Title IX and other applicable regulations apply generally.

The Title IV regulations governing the return of funds, which you referenced in your email, do not prohibit a school from developing its own refund policy. We understand your question to be about the Title IX requirements as they relate to a school's own refund policy for students who withdraw from school due to pregnancy.

As explained in OCR's [guidance on pregnant and parenting students](#), Title IX requires a school to excuse a student's absences due to pregnancy or related conditions for as long as the student's doctor deems the absences to be medically necessary. A school is also not permitted to treat a student who withdraws from school due to pregnancy worse than a student who withdraws from school due to any other temporary medical condition.



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