



A Report on the Denial of Educational Opportunities for Pregnant Teens in Santa Clara County

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Prepared jointly by:

Public Interest Law Firm
Legal Advocates for Children & Youth
Equal Rights Advocates
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Executive Summary

As a result of complaints that pregnant and parenting teens were being discriminated against in their high schools in Santa Clara County, the above organizations commissioned a test to determine whether such discrimination was occurring. Federal and California laws prohibit schools from discriminating against pregnant and parenting teens; accordingly, schools are barred from forcing such teens to leave school and otherwise treating them differently from other students because of their pregnancy or parenting status.

The test consisted of a tester, posing as a pregnant teenager, calling high schools to ask for enrollment information. The test revealed that 6 out of the 24 Santa Clara County high schools tested blatantly discriminated against the tester. In these instances, the official either informed the tester that she could not register and would have to go to an alternative school or independent study because of her pregnancy, or pressured the tester to attend such a program. Alternative schools and independent study are often of lesser academic quality than mainstream high schools. At two other schools, officials were unsure how to handle the tester's "pregnancy" and questioned whether a pregnant student would be allowed to attend the school.

In light of the discrimination documented by the test, our organizations have issued recommendations to the California Board of Education and local schools to ensure that discrimination against pregnant and parenting teens does not continue. They include improved education and training for school officials; increased support services for pregnant teens; establishment of a public education campaign regarding pregnant and parenting students' rights; improved state oversight; and better access to child care. Pregnant and parenting teens already face significant economic and social disadvantages. Their future well-being should not be put at further risk by barriers to equal education.

“Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.”
Franklin D. Roosevelt

Background

Over the past two years, the organizations that prepared this report have received numerous complaints about the treatment of pregnant and parenting teens in high schools in Santa Clara County. The following descriptions illustrate the types of complaints that motivated our organizations to conduct further investigation into the treatment of pregnant and parenting teens in local schools and, ultimately, this report:

- Several pregnant teens were forced or pressured by administrators to leave their home schools when their pregnancies were discovered. For example, one teen was transferred involuntarily to an alternative school¹ ten days before the school year ended and, as a result, missed graduating with her friends. Another teen – who had been getting As and Bs – was told she was a “bad example” and was forced to transfer to another school, where she was then informed that she had to go to independent study. Her transfer paperwork was misplaced by the original school, causing her to miss school for over six months. Yet another teen was told that it was unacceptable for her to stay in school in that “condition,” and was forced into independent study.
- Other pregnant teens were restricted from certain courses or activities. A young woman – who, at the time of her pregnancy, was the President of the student body of a local high school – was told by a counselor that she was a “bad role model” and was pressured by him to resign her position.

A number of social workers, nurses, and other service providers have reported to us that schools routinely force or pressure pregnant teens to transfer to alternative schools or to independent study without informing the teens of their right to remain in their local mainstream schools. In addition, many pregnant teens are strongly “counseled” by school officials that it is in their own best interest to leave their schools. The school officials emphasize to teens that their home schools lack sufficient resources for pregnant or parenting teens.

Unfortunately, most alternative schools are, in many ways, inferior to mainstream high schools. Most often are located a significant distance from the teen’s home, isolating her from her friends and local community. Some alternative schools provide daycare and parenting classes, but all have shorter schools days (often ending at 1:30 p.m.); fewer curriculum options such as electives and advanced classes; and fewer, if any, opportunities for participation in extra-curricular activities, including athletic programs². Although credits earned at alternative schools count toward graduation requirements, they generally do not satisfy the entrance requirements of four-year colleges and universities. Further, not all levels of special education services are available at all alternative schools. A number of teens and service providers whom we interviewed described alternative schools as academically deficient, with an atmosphere that is not conducive to learning.

Independent study programs offer even less in the way of academic rigor and programs to pregnant and parenting teens. Students in independent study meet with an instructor only once each week. Students are expected to work almost entirely on their own, completing units of study using workbooks. Students in independent study are unable to participate in any extracurricular activities.

- Parenthood is the leading reason why teen girls drop out of high school.³ Thirty percent of teen mothers never earn their high school diploma and even those who do are less likely than women who delay childbearing to go on to college.⁴ Less than one-third of teens who have children before age eighteen complete high school during their lifetimes.⁵
- The effect of a lack of education among teen mothers is seen in their children. Children of teens are 50 percent more likely to repeat a grade; they score lower on standardized tests; and, ultimately, they are less likely to complete high school than if their mothers had delayed childbearing to go on to college.⁶
- Early childbearing also negatively affects teens' employment opportunities, marital options, and family structure.⁷ Twenty-eight percent of teen mothers are low-income while in their 20s and early 30s; only 7% of women who first give birth after adolescence are low-income at those ages.⁸ Close to eighty percent of unmarried teen mothers rely on welfare at some point in their lives.⁹
- Although teen pregnancy rates nationwide are decreasing, teen pregnancy is still a significant problem. Each year, almost 1 million teenage women in the United States – 10% of all women aged 15-19 – become pregnant; the birth rate for women aged 15-19 is approximately 5%.¹⁰ The teen birth rate in Santa Clara County is 3.7%.¹¹

Teen parenthood all too often permanently interrupts the education that would have improved the students' chances of future economic independence. The responsibilities and problems faced by pregnant and parenting teens are exacerbated by any additional barriers to a sound education.

As a result of the complaints of discrimination against pregnant teens, a formal test of a number of high schools in Santa Clara County was commissioned by Public Interest Law Firm, Legal Advocates for Children & Youth, Equal Rights Advocates, and Fenwick & West LLP. The test was conducted by the Discrimination Research Center (DRC) of The Impact Fund; the objective of the test was to determine whether pregnant teens are treated in a discriminatory manner when they inquire about enrollment. The essential method of the test was as follows: the tester was instructed to pose as a teenager, call high schools asking for enrollment information, and reveal that she is pregnant early in the conversation.

Legal Rights of Pregnant Teens in School

Before the enactment of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the expulsion of pregnant teens from high schools was commonplace in California and nationwide.¹² Title IX brought about a profound change in the legal rights of pregnant and parenting teens in school by

prohibiting federally funded schools from engaging in gender-based discrimination.¹³ Because discrimination against pregnant and parenting students disproportionately affects female students, it is considered a form of gender discrimination. Title IX applies to all recipients of federal education funds, which includes virtually all public schools. Specifically, the regulations implementing Title IX provide that schools:

shall not discriminate against any student, or exclude any student from [their] education program or activity, including any class or extracurricular activity, on the basis of such student’s pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy or recovery therefrom. . . .¹⁴

Moreover, any special programs for pregnant and parenting students must be voluntary and “comparable” to those offered to other students.¹⁵

State law also prohibits schools from discriminating against students based on gender.¹⁶ California’s Sex Equity in Education Act’s regulations specifically (1) forbid schools from forcing pregnant students into alternative programs, and (2) state that those programs must not be inferior to mainstream programs.¹⁷ The State Board of Education has issued an Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting Policy that commits the Board and the California Department of Education to ensuring that schools comply with their obligation not to discriminate against students based on their pre- or post-natal status.¹⁸

These laws mandate that a student cannot be denied admittance to or forced out of school altogether because the student is pregnant or parenting. The laws further prohibit schools from treating such students as second-rate by forcing, pressuring, or steering students into inferior alternative schools.

“If we mean to have heroes, statesmen and philosophers, we should have learned women.”
Abigail Adams

Key Findings

Testing Results

Although the legal right of pregnant and parenting teens to equal education is well established, the reality in Santa Clara County high schools is different. The DRC test confirmed blatant discrimination against pregnant teens in a number of Santa Clara County high schools.²⁰

According to the DRC report, twenty-five percent of the 24 high schools tested “prohibited or strongly discouraged the teen from enrolling.” These schools ranged geographically from Los Altos to Gilroy. Many of the instances of discriminatory treatment occurred in the face of the tester’s strong expression of desire to attend that particular school.

- At Los Altos High School in the Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District, a school official told the tester, “You can’t come to our school,” and that she must “go to Adult Ed.” Even after the tester expressed a preference to attend a normal school, the official stated that there was no way she could.
- At Westmont High School in the Campbell Union High School District, the tester’s call was transferred to the guidance office, where an official told the tester that she was required to go to independent study. After the tester told the official that she wanted to go to a normal school, the official asked, “[W]hat are you going to do when your due date approaches?” and reiterated that she was required to go to independent study.

- At Alta Vista High School – a continuation high school in the Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District – the tester was told that an independent study program at Moffett High School for young mothers was the best solution. When the tester expressed a preference to attend the mainstream school, the official said the school was full and that the tester would probably end up at Moffett.
- At Lynbrook High School in the Fremont Union High School District, the tester was told by an assistant principal that she would have to go to Cupertino High School for the program for pregnant teens. After the tester expressed an interest in going to Lynbrook, the official repeatedly pressured her to attend Cupertino. The official stated that students are more accustomed to seeing pregnant girls at Cupertino than they are at Lynbrook, where she would be the “only pregnant girl in school.” The official warned the tester that kids at Lynbrook might say something cruel to her. Although the official acknowledged that these were not the “old days” when girls got kicked out of school for getting pregnant, the official insisted that the tester look into the program at Cupertino before she would process her enrollment at Lynbrook.
- At San José High Academy in the San José Unified School District, an official gave the tester the telephone number of the young mother program at Broadway High School. When the tester expressed a desire to go to San José High, the official asked, “does your tummy show yet?” She then stated that once the tester started “showing,” she should probably register for Broadway.
- At Gilroy High School in the Gilroy Unified School District, a registrar gave the tester the telephone number for Mount Madonna, a continuation school. When the tester expressed an interest in going to a regular school, the registrar asked how far along the tester was in her pregnancy. After being told that the tester was three months pregnant, the registrar said that she could start out at Madonna and, after the pregnancy, possibly transfer back to Gilroy. In answer to an inquiry of whether the tester could go to Gilroy, the registrar said, “No, not for your junior year.”

In addition to the above results, officials at two schools questioned whether the tester would be allowed to enroll in their schools. One official was worried about the school’s liability if another student pushed the “pregnant” tester down the stairs. The other official stated that she was unsure how to handle the registration of a pregnant teen. At minimum, these comments indicate a lack of training and accurate information on the part of school personnel. The remainder of the schools tested provided the tester with information on enrollment, without discouraging her from enrolling.

School Policies

The organizations that prepared this report sent requests under the California Public Records Act¹⁹, to obtain documents relating to policies and practices concerning the treatment of pregnant and parenting teens to the five Santa Clara County school districts in which DRC’s test revealed discriminatory treatment. Our requests asked each of the districts and their high schools to produce any and all policies, procedures, and documents that relate to pregnant and parenting teens. The results of our inquiry confirm that the schools that are engaging in discriminatory treatment of pregnant or parenting students lack appropriate written policies or procedures to protect against

such discrimination.

All of the school districts and high schools responded to the requests by producing some documents. However, none of schools produced any document that explained in any detail the rights of pregnant and parenting teens to attend all high schools and to equal treatment and necessary accommodations. Only one district produced any documents that were at all relevant to the right of pregnant or parenting teens to attend their own mainstream school. Fremont Union’s website contains a statement of prohibition against discrimination, including that based on parental status. Additionally, one document that we received from that District states that the Teens With Tots program at Cupertino High School is a “voluntary alternative program.”

None of the districts produced documents that advised students or school employees of the specific educational rights of pregnant and parenting teens. None produced policies regarding training of school employees about the educational rights of pregnant and parenting teens.

“Only the educated are free.”
Epictetus

Recommendations

Given the significant level of discrimination documented by the DRC’s test, we have issued recommendations to the State Board of Education and the local districts of schools that were found to have discriminatory practices. We also make the following general recommendations for all California high schools:

- Education and Training
Each District should issue a directive to all school personnel to train intake, admissions, administrative, teaching, and support staff about the rights of pregnant teens to attend all high schools and to equal treatment and necessary accommodations. School officials should also be trained about how to appropriately counsel pregnant teens about their educational options.
- Support Services
Each school should ensure that its federally-required Title IX coordinator is trained to sensitively and appropriately work with pregnant and parenting students. The coordinator should act as a resource for information and referrals for both pregnant students and other school officials.
- Board of Education
The Board should ensure training of Title IX coordinators and other school officials; implement monitoring and evaluation of programs and policies involving pregnant and parenting teens; and coordinate a public education campaign for pregnant and parenting students so that they know about their rights. The Board should take these and all other necessary actions to enforce its 1993 policy statement regarding teen pregnancy and parenting that tasks itself and the Department of Education with ensuring compliance of all schools with Title IX.
- Child Care
Each District should secure more funding for child care, especially for underserved sites. Each District should ensure that school personnel have information about child care

resources and alternatives. Each District should coordinate with the alternative schools to access daycare services and other resources for parenting teens.

Conclusion

This report should dispel the notion that the passage of Title IX ended the discriminatory treatment of pregnant and parenting teens, at least with regard to a significant number of high schools in Santa Clara County. Denial of equal educational opportunity to pregnant or parenting teens comes at a devastating cost; few students need a quality education more than pregnant and parenting teens. Encouraging and providing support to pregnant students who wish to continue academically rich educational programs will have a positive impact on their lives and their children's lives. Moreover, the community at large will benefit from having a generation of young parents who are better educated and more economically self-sufficient. We are deeply concerned that pregnant teens in Santa Clara County are not receiving equal educational opportunities. We call on all the local school districts in Santa Clara County and the State Board of Education to take the steps recommended in this report to ensure that pregnant and parenting teens obtain an equal and quality education.

Endnotes

- 1 When this report refers to "alternative school," the term is used interchangeably with "continuation school" or "community school".
- 2 Documents received from the pregnant and parenting teen program at Cupertino High School indicate that their pregnant teens are offered three academic choices; pregnant or parenting students can attend the alternative program on campus, attend classes at the mainstream High School, or participate in the independent study program.
- 3 National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE), *Policy Update: The Role of Education in Teen Pregnancy Prevention*, Alexandria, VA: Policy Information Clearinghouse (1998).
- 4 Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI), *Sex and America's Teenagers* 59 (1994).
- 5 The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, *Whatever Happened to Childhood? The Problem of Teen Pregnancy in the United States* (1997).
- 6 *Ibid.*
- 7 K.A. Moore, D.E. Myers, D.R. Morrison, C.W. Nord, B. Brown, *Teenage Childbearing and Poverty*, Paper presented at NICHD Conference (1992).
- 8 AGI, *supra* note 4 at 61.
- 9 NASBE, *supra* note 3.
- 10 AGI, *Teenage Pregnancy: Overall Trends and State-By-State Information* Table 1 (1990); and S.K. Henshaw, *U.S. Teenage Pregnancy Statistics with Comparative Statistics for Women Aged 20-24* 5 (1999).
- 11 California Department of Health Services, County Health Status Profiles 2002, *Table 22, Births Among Adolescent Mothers, 15 to 19 Years Old . . . 1998-2000* (2002).
- 12 See National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education, *Title IX at 30: Report Card on Gender Equity* (2002).
- 13 20 U.S.C. § 1681(a).
- 14 34 C.F.R. § 106.40(a).
- 15 34 C.F.R. § 106.4(b)(1), (3).
- 16 Ed. Code, § 221.5.
- 17 Cal. Code Reg. §4950(c).
- 18 California State Board of Education, *Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting Policy* (July 9, 1993) at 2.
- 19 Gov. Code §§ 6250-6270.
- 20 See Exhibit 1.

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The mission of LACY is to provide free legal and related social services to the children and youth of Santa Clara County and to encourage the development of legal expertise in child advocacy through training for attorneys, law students, and the community. LACY seeks to accomplish its mission through direct representation, advocacy, mediation, information and referral, and systemic reform. LACY provides services through its Community Education, Education Law, Emancipation, Guardianship, Homeless and Runaway Youth, and Pregnant and Parenting Teen Projects.

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Equal Rights Advocates' ("ERA") mission is to protect and secure equal rights and economic opportunities for women and girls through litigation and advocacy. Since its inception in 1974, ERA has specialized in litigating cases designed to assure women equal access to all of society's benefits including employment, education, and public accommodations. ERA has litigated and participated as amicus curiae in several Title IX cases that involved sexual harassment of students.

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TESTING RESULTS

In August and September 2002, a tester from The Impact Fund’s Discrimination Research Center called twenty-four schools to inquire about registering for classes. The tester explained that she was pregnant, but was still interested in attending a regular high school. Six of the schools responded negatively toward her and discouraged her from enrolling. The tester’s notes are set forth verbatim below, with minor corrections for ease of reading and to mask individuals’ identities.

School	Tester Transcript
Campbell Union High School District Del Mar High School San José August 23, 2002	<p>I called and got a machine. One of the options was to call 298-0260 for registration. That call lasted for one minute, from 1:10-1:11 p.m. I called back at 1:14 pm. I was forwarded to the district office and spoke with a female who asked me to call back after 1 pm. I asked if it wasn’t 1:15 pm already, and she said that I would just have to try back later. That call lasted from 1:14-1:15 p.m.</p> <p>1:32 p.m. Spoke with [a school official]. I asked her how I might enroll and she began to tell me about new student registration. I interrupted her and said, “Well, this is kind of embarrassing, but I’m also pregnant. I don’t know if you need to know that.” She then asked me if I wanted to go to regular school or independent study. I told her I wanted to go to a normal school. She said, “I’m not sure how to handle that. Can you wait a minute while I check with somebody?” I was on hold for several minutes. She then returned and said that she was going to give me a number to call. Then she began talking to another male in the room saying, “I don’t think their lines are up yet.” He told her to ask me to call back later. She told me to call back in ½ hr. I asked her how registration would go for Del Mar, and she said that it involves stacks of paperwork and that I should call back, but that there was a new student registration time set for the 27th and 29th. The call ended @ 1:37 p.m.</p> <p>I called back @ 2:16 p.m. and asked for [the same school official] and told her that she had asked me to call back ([the same school official] was the one who answered the phone). She asked me to wait for a minute and then put me on hold. When she came back on the phone, she said that she had just spoken to somebody and that they said I could come by @ 8 a.m. on the 27th and pick up the materials. She said that with that packet would also be information on how to register. She said to pick up the materials before 3:15 p.m.</p>
Campbell Union High School District Leigh High School San José August 23, 2002	<p>1:16 p.m. I asked the person who answered the phone how I would enroll and was transferred to [school official] at [extension].</p> <p>I told [school official] that my mom was at work and wanted me to</p>

	<p>call and get information about enrolling. I told her that I just wanted to let her know that I was also pregnant. She paused for a moment and said “okay” and then informed me that I would need a PG&E bill (if I had one), a lease agreement (she asked, “Are you renting or buying?”), immunization record (“Did you go to the Contra Costa School district?” I told her I was moving from Oakland. She responded by saying that I would need a TB test), transcripts, and a birth certificate.</p> <p>She said that school starts on Wednesday and that I would need to come in with all of the above listed things on Monday from 2-3 p.m., Tuesday from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or Wednesday from 9-10 a.m. for a new student drop in.</p> <p>Her demeanor did not seem to change after I told her I was pregnant.</p>
<p>Campbell Union High School District Prospect High School Saratoga August 23, 2002</p>	<p>1:48 pm. I spoke with [a high-level school official], who offered his name to me at the end of the conversation. I said that I was looking for registration information, and he asked me what I needed to know. I told him that I was pregnant, and I didn’t know if he needed to know that. He asked how pregnant I was, and I told him 3 months. He asked how old I was, and I said that I was 16. He asked where I attended high school and I said Berkeley High. He told me that I should call [another school official] at [phone number and extension] to talk with her about what I should do. He said that she is the [title] and could give me information on programs for teen moms and how to register. I asked him how I would go about registering for “normal, regular school” and he said that if I still wanted to register after I talked to [other school official], I would have to provide proof of residence which could be either a mortgage, a rental agreement, or a PG&E bill, a TB test and immunization records, and transcripts and “that sort of thing.” He again encouraged me to call [the other high-level school official] first, though, because “once that baby is born, that will be the most important thing, taking care of your baby.” He offered his name and said that I would need it if I wanted to register there. The call ended at 1:51 p.m.</p> <p>2 p.m. I called and tried to navigate a non-working phone system. I dialed 0 for the operator, eventually, and told her I would like to speak with [the other high-level school official] at [extension]. I was told that she was at [extension] and was then put through. I got her machine. I did not leave a message. 2:03 p.m.</p> <p>2:22 p.m. I called again and got the machine. Call ended at 2:22 p.m.</p>

Campbell Union High School District
Westmont High School
Campbell
August 23, 2002

2:04 p.m. I called and asked for registration information and was put on hold. Someone got back on the line and asked me if they could help me. I told them that I was put on hold and would like some information about how to register for school. They started to tell me what I would need, but then I said that I was pregnant and that I didn't know if they needed to know that. I was then told, "Let me transfer you to someone who can answer that for you." The woman then asked another woman what [the school official]'s extension was. I was then transferred.

A woman answered the phone saying that she was in the guidance office. I told her that I needed information to register. She asked if I lived in the district, and I told her that I would be moving there this weekend. She said that she couldn't help me because I don't even live in the district. I reiterated that I would be moving there this weekend, and I just wanted to know what I needed to do one I was there to register. She stated to tell me what I would need but then I interrupted her and told her that was also pregnant and was not sure if she needed to know that. She said that I would need to talk with [the high-level school official]. She said that I would need to go into Independent Study. I told her that I wanted to go to normal school and she said, "Well, what are you going to do when your due date approaches?" I said, "Well, I was hoping to work with my teachers." She said that that would not be possible and that I would need to go into Independent Study. I asked her how I would register anyways, and she told me that would need to talk with [the high-level school official]. She said that he wouldn't be in until Tuesday. I asked her for her name and she said that she was [name]. The call ended at 2:08 p.m.

Fremont Union High School District
Cupertino High School
August 23, 2002

3:16 p.m. Called and was transferred to [school official]. I told her that I was pregnant and wanted to register. She told me to call [high-level school official] at [phone number]. I asked her what she did, and was told that she is the [title] and deals with teen moms and that sort of thing. I told her that I really wanted to go to a normal school, and she then asked me where I lived. I told her I don't have an address, but my mom told me that this was going to be my school district. She asked me for my street name, and I told her again I didn't have it. She then asked me what city I live in and I told her Cupertino, and repeated that this will be my high school. She told me that she needs to verify where I live before I can even be considered for enrollment. She asked who I would be moving with, and I told her I would be moving with my mom. She said that Monday would be hectic for her, but that I could call on Tuesday morning. She asked me if I would have my address by then. I told her that I would. She said that I could call her then, and asked me if I wanted her number. I told her that I did. She

	<p>said her number was [phone number]. She then said that I could try to call her on Monday, and she would see how her day is going. I asked her if she could help me to register then and she said that she would. The call ended at 3:20 p.m.</p>
<p>Fremont Union High School District Fremont High School Sunnyvale August 23, 2002</p>	<p>3:27 p.m. I was transferred to Student Services and spoke with [school official]. She said that being pregnant was not a problem, but that they do have a teen pregnancy program in their district if I was interested. She gave me the usual things that I would need to register, and told me to just come down on Tuesday or later to register. She told me that they aren't doing any registration before then. She said that school starts on Monday, though, so that if I was going to school there, I should decide soon so that I won't miss too much school. The call ended at 3:29 p.m.</p>
<p>Fremont Union High School District Homestead High School Cupertino August 23, 2002</p>	<p>3:33 p.m. I first spoke with a woman who told me to come in on Monday to register. When I told her that I was pregnant and asked her if she needed to know that, she asked another woman in the office if they needed to know that. Then she said, "Well, you come and talk to her." So a woman came on the phone and said "Hi. This is [school official] in the Registrar's Office." She asked me if I came in earlier to pick up registration information. I told her that I did not. She said that another girl who was pregnant came in just the other day, and then she corrected herself, saying that she had actually already had the baby. She asked me if I would be interested in a Teen Parenting Program, and I told her that I just wanted to go to a normal regular school. She said that that was fine, and told me what I would need to bring. She said that I could come in Monday after 7:30 a.m. to register. She asked me if I still lived with my parents, and I told her that I did. She said that would need a PG&E bill in one of their names. She gave me a list of the other regular things to bring, and asked me where I was coming from. I told her Berkeley High. She did NOT mention that I needed a TB test. The call ended at 3:35 p.m.</p>
<p>Fremont Union High School District Lynbrook High School San José August 23, 2002</p>	<p>3:40 p.m. I spoke with the [school official], and told her my situation. She said that I would probably need to go to Cupertino High School for the program they have for pregnant teens. I told her that I would really just like to go to a regular, normal high school, and she said that Cupertino was a normal high school. She said that they don't have a program for pregnant teens. I asked her how I would go about applying at their high school. She said that she had to talk to the [high-level school official] and see what she said first. She put me on hold. Then at 3:44 p.m. someone else came on the line and asked me if I needed help. I told them that I was being helped, but that I was waiting for the registrar to come</p>

back. She said that the [school official] walked out but would probably come back soon. I was put back on hold.

The [school official] got back on the phone and told me that I would be speaking with [the high-level school official] and that she would tell me what I would need to do.

I then was put back on hold. The [school official] came back on the phone and said that I would have to wait a minute longer, because [the high-level school official] had to use the restroom. I was put on hold again.

The [school official] then picked up again and told me that I would now be transferred.

[The high-level school official] introduced herself as [name] and thanked me for calling back. I told her that I didn't call back, but was on hold for a while. She said that somehow they had lost me on the phone. She told me that from what she knows about me, the Cupertino High School program sounds like a perfect match for me. She said that it is a normal high school and that there are so many benefits. She asked me if I planned on keeping the baby, and I told her that I did. She said that there would be free child care and parenting classes and other things offered at Cupertino that aren't offered there. I told her that I would really like to just go to their high school. She asked me if I was emancipated from my parents and who I lived with. I said that I lived with my mom. She said that if I live in their district then I am welcome to come to their school, but she said that I need to think about it first.

She began to tell me how I would "show" and how I would have to leave school for 6 weeks when I was giving birth. She asked when I was due, and I told her that I am 3 months along. She asked if I was due in March, and I told her that I was. She said that she wants me to explore my other options first, and that I have to really think about the situation.

She said that she doesn't know me personally, but she does know that kids are more accustomed to seeing pregnant girls in Cupertino than they are there. I would be the only pregnant girl in school. She said that Cupertino kids are more accepting. She can't promise that someone wouldn't say something cruel to me and that if they did, I could report it, like any other harassment, and that she would do something about it. She asked me if I understood what she was trying to say, and I said "uh huh." She said that in the "old days" they used to kick girls out of school for getting pregnant, but they

	<p>don't do that anymore.</p> <p>I asked her again how I would go about registering for their school. She said that she wants me to look at the program at Cupertino first before I make any decisions. She said that it's not a big deal for me to miss a few days of school while I am checking out the other program. She said that if I still want to come there, I am welcome, and can come in on Monday to the office and say that I am there to register. She asked if she could give me the number of the woman heading up the program at Cupertino, and I said that she could. She said that her name was [name] and that she was the [title]. Her number is [phone number]. She told me to tell her that [high-level school official's name] wants me to talk to her and to "tell her why." The call ended at 3:52 p.m.</p>
<p>Fremont Union High School District Monta Vista High School Cupertino August 26, 2002</p>	<p>2:12 p.m. I called & spoke with [school official]. I told her I wanted information about registering and she asked me what kind of information I needed. I told her the "story." She did not seem to care that I am pregnant. She gave me the registrar's phone number 366-7610 and transferred me. The machine picked up.</p>
<p>Gilroy Unified School District Gilroy High School September 3, 2002</p>	<p>3:12 p.m. I spoke with [school official] at [extension] in the phone tree. When I told her that I was pregnant, she said that she was going to give me the number of the school that I should be calling. She said that it was called Mount Madonna and could be reached at 408-842-4313. I asked her what kind of school that was and she said that it was a "continuation school" where I could earn my diploma, but it was catering to pregnant girls.</p> <p>I told her that I would like to just go to a regular school. She asked me how many credits I have. I told her that I didn't know, but that my mom had my transcripts. I said that I am going into my junior year. She said that she would have to know how many credits I have because some schools have other state regulations. I said that I was coming from Berkeley High, and that everything is in order for me to begin my junior year.</p> <p>She then asked me how far along I was in the pregnancy. I told her that I was 3 months along. She echoed, "Six, okay, well" and I interrupted her and said, "No, I said three," but she ignored me and continued talking. She said that I could start out at Madonna and then maybe transfer back to Gilroy afterwards. I think she may have been counting 6 months until my due date, and that is where the "six" came from.</p> <p>I said, "So, I wouldn't be able to go this school?" and she replied "No, not for your junior year." The call ended at 3:14 p.m.</p>

<p>Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District Los Gatos High School August 26, 2002</p>	<p>2:17 p.m. I went through a phone tree, following directions to speak to the register. I talked to her and seemed unfazed that I was pregnant. She did ask me to repeat what I just said, though. She told me what I would need to register (transcript, health records, proof of renting). She asked if we were renting or owning a house and if we were living with any other families. She said that since we wouldn't have a PG&E bill, we would need to call [school official], [title], at [phone number] to override that issue. She said that we could pick up a packet in her office to register. She asked me what grade I was going into and she told me that school started today and that I should start reading <i>Into the Wild</i> for my English class. She asked what classes I took last year, and I told her that I could bring my transcripts and we could talk about it together. She asked me if I passed all of my classes, and I told her that I did. The call ended at 2:21 p.m.</p>
<p>Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District Saratoga High School August 26, 2002</p>	<p>2:29 p.m. I spoke with a secretary who answered the phone. I told her that I would like some info on registering, and she transferred me to guidance. A machine picked up, but I was given the option to press 0 for assistance, and so I did.</p> <p>The same woman answered the phone and I asked her if anyone was available. She told me that I would have to leave a message on Guidance's machine. I told her that I was looking to register and that I was pregnant, but not sure if that mattered. She said that she was going to give me another extension, in light of my "situation." She told me that the woman's name is [high-level school official] and she is the [title]. She said that she wants me to "tell her what condition you are in" and that she would know how to deal with this sort of thing. She said that her voicemail may pick up, and for me just to leave a message. She asked for my last name (Smith) and said that she would have [high-level school official] check her voicemail as soon as she got in. I was then transferred.</p> <p>The person who answered the phone sounded like a young female student. She answered the phone saying "[the high-level school official]'s office". I said that I would like to talk to [high-level school official]. The voice said [she] was not here right now. I said that I was trying to register and that I was pregnant. There was no reply. I asked who I should talk to about that. The reply was, "Well, I'm [high-level school official]'s son so I don't know. I'm only eight." I thanked him for his help and said goodbye. The call ended at 2:35 p.m.</p>
<p>Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District Alta Vista High School Mountain View</p>	<p>2:42 p.m. I spoke with [school official] who answered the phone. I told her that I would be moving to this school on Wednesday and that I am pregnant. She asked me how far along and how old I am. I told her that I was 16 and 3 months along. She said that my best</p>

<p>August 26, 2002</p>	<p>solution was Moffett High’s independent study program for young mothers. She said that she was going to get me that information. I stopped her, telling her that I just wanted to go to normal school. She told me that I would have to get my transcripts, and some other information and that I would have to make an appointment to talk with [high-level school official] with my mom.</p> <p>I said, “So I can go to school there if I just bring all of the information?” She said that the school is currently full, and that I might have to be on a waiting list but that I would probably end up at Moffett. She said that “we will decide” after the appointment. I asked her if she would be the one deciding. She said that she would not decide, but [high-level school official], [title], will decide after she meets me and my mom.</p> <p>She said to come in or call her when I have all of my information together. The call ended at 2:45.</p>
<p>Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District Los Altos High School August 26, 2002</p>	<p>2:51 pm. I spoke to [school official] who answered the phone. I told her that I was looking for information about registering. She didn’t respond. I asked her if she was the person that I needed to speak with. She said, “Well, what information do you need to know?” I told her that I was moving with my mom on Wednesday to this school and that I want to register. I am also pregnant, but I’m not sure if that matters. She told me, “You can’t come to our school.” She said that I “must go to Adult Ed.” I asked her where that was, and she said “333 Moffett.” She informed me that there was a program there for me. I paused for a minute and said, “Well, I really just want to go to regular school. Is there any way that I can go to a normal school?” She said that there was not, using the word “honey” when she spoke to me. She used that word twice. I asked her what her name was, so that my mom could call if she had any questions. She told me her name was [school official]. She quickly told me that I the person I would need to speak with was [school official] at [phone number]. The call ended at 2.53 pm.</p>
<p>Palo Alto Unified School District Henry M. Gunn High School August 26, 2002</p>	<p>3:11 p.m. I spoke with [school official]. I told her I was pregnant and said, “I don’t know if that matters.” She said, “You are pregnant?” I said, “Yes.” She said, “Nope, that doesn’t matter.” She told me that would need to go to 25 Churchill to the Central Attendance Office. They will give me an information packet for enrollment. She said that Gunn is currently closed to new students, and that most students are going to Palo Alto High School. She said that this could be just a temporary situation. The sooner I get registered, the higher up on the waiting list I will be. She asked if I wanted the number for the Central Attendance Office, and I told her I would. She said it was 329-3707. The call ended at 3:14 p.m.</p>

<p>Palo Alto Unified School District Palo Alto High School August 26, 2002</p>	<p>3:20 p.m. I was transferred to [a school official] in Guidance. [The school official] told me that it didn't matter that I was pregnant, and I was welcome to go to school there, it just depends on how I felt about it. She said that there was another pregnant girl who was at school there last year. She informed me that there was no special program for "moms-to-be" in their district, but that Redwood City had that if I was interested. She repeated that I was welcome to attend school at Palo Alto. She said that I would need to apply through the District Office, and that their number was 329-3707. The call ended at 3:21 p.m.</p>
<p>San José Unified School District Gunderson High School August 26, 2002</p>	<p>3:24 p.m. I went through a phone tree, ultimately talking to [a school official] who is a CWA (counselor). She told me that I would need to call the "District" and gave me the number for [another school official] ([phone number]). [The school official] said that he would have to "okay" me going to school there first. She said that there were liability issues, like if someone pushed me down the stairs, that the school would have to deal with and that she wasn't sure if I could go there or not.</p> <p>I called [other school official] and told him my situation. He told me about the programs that they have for mothers. I told him that I wanted to just go to Gunderson. He asked me if I registered. I told him that [the first school official] said that I had to get the "okay" from him before I registered. He asked me how my grades are. I told him I had all "A's" and "B's." He said, "What's the problem? You're just pregnant?" I told him that I didn't know; all I knew was that [the first school official] said I had to call him first. He told me that he didn't think that there was a problem with me going to Gunderson as long as my grades were good. He said "I don't know the rules." [The school official] told me that I need to register first, and that I should call 535-6412 to speak with a CWA and register first. He didn't think that there was a problem, but he didn't know for sure. The call ended at 3:31 p.m.</p>
<p>San José Unified School District Leland High School August 26, 2002</p>	<p>3:38 p.m. I spoke with a woman who answered the phone. I did not get her name. She told me that I would have to go to Erikson Assignment Center on Pearl to register, because they do not do it at the individual school. She said that there was a young mothers' program that I could get into. I told her that I just wanted to go to Leland, and she said that I should just tell them that. She said that Leland is currently full, but that they may make some exceptions depending on where I live. She said that no one would probably suspect that I was pregnant when I go to register. She said to just tell them everything and bring my mom and transcripts and that sort of thing. The call ended at 3:40 p.m.</p>

<p>San José Unified School District Lincoln High School August 26, 2002</p>	<p>3:43 p.m. I spoke with a receptionist who didn't seem to mind that I was pregnant. She told me to either call Erikson Enrollment Center at 535-6430 in the South or Burnett Enrollment Center at 535-6410 in the Downtown area. The call ended at 3:44 p.m.</p>
<p>San José Unified School District Pioneer High School August 26, 2002</p>	<p>[A school official] told me she didn't know if my pregnancy mattered, but that I would have to go through the enrollment center first anyway. The # is 353-6430 and the address is 4855 Pearl Ave, San José, 95138.</p>
<p>San José Unified School District San José High Academy August 30, 2002</p>	<p>I spoke with [a school official] and only told her that I wanted enrollment information. She gave me the # 535-6410 and told me to call that number about enrollment. The call ended at 12:32 p.m.</p> <p>12:33 p.m. I called the number above and found myself calling an enrollment phone system. I seem to remember having been in this system before. I was given the option to dial either the Burnett or Erikson Enrollment Centers to make appointments. I think I connected with the Erikson center and spoke with [school official] at [phone number]. She had a bit of an Asian accent, I believe. (She mentioned at the end of the conversation when I asked her for her name and a way my mom could contact her that she was going back to school, and would be gone after next week.) I told her my normal script, and was put on hold.</p> <p>At 12:36 p.m. she came back on the phone and told me that all of the technicians were at lunch so she would need to find someone to ask.</p> <p>At 12:38 p.m. she came back on the phone and asked me for my address. I told her that I didn't have it. She said that she needs it first to see which school I am in. She then said that she would ask someone anyway.</p> <p>About a minute later she came back on the phone and told me that she was going to give me the number for the Young Mother Program on Broadway. She said she would first give me the number and then transfer me to them.</p> <p>I told her that I just wanted to go to a normal school. She didn't understand what I meant (may have been a language barrier). I clarified that I wanted to go to THIS school. She paused and said that she has an embarrassing question to ask me: "Does your tummy show yet?"</p> <p>I said that I was not showing. She told me that I could register then for this school. My mother would need to register me because I was under 18 (I told her that I was going into my junior year earlier</p>

	<p>in the conversation, before I was put on hold the first time.) She told me all of the things I would need to bring (standard info) and added that once I started “showing” I could register for Broadway.</p> <p>I asked her if I had to go to Broadway once I was showing, and she said she wasn’t sure that I HAD to go, but I probably should. The call ended at 12:42 p.m.</p>
<p>San José Unified School District Willow Glen High School August 26, 2002</p>	<p>3:51 p.m. I spoke with [school official] in the attendance office. She told me, “We are open to everyone” but did ask me if I knew about Broadway. I told her that I did not. She said that it is an “alternative school” with pregnant girls attending. She reiterated that I could attend Willow without any problems. She told me that I would have to call Erikson first at 545-6430 to register and that their address is 4855 Pearl Avenue. She said that if I call, I might get a machine, and my questions wouldn’t be answered. She said that it might be easier for me to go directly to the building. The call ended at 3.56 p.m.</p>
<p>Santa Clara Unified School District Santa Clara High School August 26, 2002</p>	<p>[School official] answered the phone and said that my pregnancy did not matter. She said that she first needed an address to see if I belonged to them or Wilcox. She told me to call back with my address & make an appointment.</p>
<p>Santa Clara Unified School District Wilcox High School August 26, 2002</p>	<p>3:57 p.m. I called and spoke with [school official]. I told her that I wanted enrollment information and was transferred to “boys’ P.E.” A machine picked up, and I called back at 3:58 p.m.</p> <p>I spoke with [school official] again and told her my situation. She said that she was not qualified to answer my enrollment questions, because she did not have the information about whether it mattered or not that I am pregnant. She said that I would be transferred to [high-level school official].</p> <p>[High-level school official] answered the phone and informed me that it didn’t matter that I was pregnant. He said that I would need a copy of the renter’s agreement, or a bill with our address on it. He said that my mom would have to come in. He also said that there were 7 pieces of paper that we would have to sign and then we would meet with a counselor. The call ended at 4:00 p.m.</p>