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# California Assembly Bill 302: Lactation Accommodations in Public Schools

## The facts

State law requires that California employers provide break time and privacy for employees who wish to pump milk or breastfeed during work. However, until recently, lactating *students* of California public schools were often denied these same accommodations. Long overdue, California Assembly Bill 302, which was signed into law in October 2015 by Governor Brown, changed this. This new law requires that California public high schools provide lactating students with a private room where they can pump and/or breastfeed, as well as a place to safely store their milk such as a refrigerator. AB 302 would demand that schools allow students adequate break time as well as the option to excuse themselves from class to pump or breastfeed when they need to.

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## Why it matters

Parenting students deserve support—not punishment. They should be able to pump, breastfeed, and store milk while still being supported in their decision to continue their education. Protections like those found in Assembly Bill 302 mean that students are no longer faced with limited options. Because of this new law, students will be less likely to feel compelled to forego school altogether in order to breastfeed and pump milk in a private place and on a schedule that is comfortable for them. Prior to this bill's passage, if lactating students were not given adequate accommodations in school, they were often unable to breastfeed and were forced to go through an entire day without pumping milk, which can lead to serious complications.

Attending school and having your lactation needs met should not be mutually exclusive. With California's passage of Assembly bill 302, schools are now required to:

- ★ Provide a safe, private, and clean space — other than a restroom — where students can breastfeed, pump, and store milk.
- ★ Ensure that lactating students will have enough break time to attend to their lactation needs.
- ★ Allow students to bring in their pumping and storage equipment.



*URGE is a national nonprofit organization that mobilizes the diverse, upcoming generation of leaders to promote and protect reproductive rights, sexual health & gender justice. Visit us at: [www.URGE.org](http://www.URGE.org)*

## What you can do

Governor Jerry Brown signed this bill into law in October 2015. You can:

- ★ [Contact](#) Governor Jerry Brown and thank him for signing this bill into law.
  - ★ [Contact](#) Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia, who introduced this bill, and thank her for being a champion in the fight for young parent's rights.
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## Resources

The California Breastfeeding Coalition is an organization dedicated to breaking down barriers to breastfeeding and other lactation needs . To find out more about lactation barriers in CA, visit the [California Breastfeeding Coalition](#).