COALITION OF OKLAHOMA BREASTFEEDING ADVOCATES

Support for Breastfeeding Students Position Statement

The Coalition of Oklahoma Breastfeeding Advocates (COBA) promotes environments that protect, support, and normalize breastfeeding across Oklahoma. This position statement and accompanying resources provides Oklahoma educational institutions with a clear framework to ensure that breastfeeding and lactating students can continue their education without barriers, stigma, or discrimination.

Guiding Principles

This position statement is grounded in:

- Oklahoma Statute Title 63 § 1-234.1, which affirms the right to breastfeed in any public or private location where the individual is otherwise authorized to be.
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits discrimination based on pregnancy, childbirth, and related conditions, including lactation.
- Evidence based public health recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which recognize breastfeeding as a critical component of maternal and child health.

Position

COBA affirms that supporting breastfeeding students strengthens educational attainment, family well-being, and community health. Therefore:

- Educational institutions in Oklahoma will have policies in place to ensure a supportive, inclusive environment for students who are breastfeeding or expressing milk.
- Students should not be penalized academically, socially, or administratively for lactation related needs.
- Educational institutions must ensure access to secure, private lactation spaces, reasonable break time to maintain milk supply and comfort, and academic accommodations that allow students to remain fully engaged in their education.

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