

Students Withdrawal Committee/Dropout Prevention

The RSU 40 Board believes that earning a high school diploma is an important and significant step in preparation for life as a responsible citizen. Therefore, the Board strongly urges every teacher, guidance counselor, principal, parent, and citizen to exert influence to keep all students in school through high school.

For those students who have been identified as at risk of dropping out, every effort will be made to provide alternative instructional arrangements that take into account both the student's need for success and the unit's commitment to adequate minimum standards of achievement.

Student Withdrawal from School

State law provides for student withdrawal from school, provided the student:

1. Has reached the age of 15 years or completed the 9th grade; and
2. Has permission to leave school from their parent.

In the event that students do withdraw from school, the Superintendent/designee will arrange for regular contacts to be made with them for the purpose of informing them of the process for readmission, making them aware of alternatives in the community for continuing their education and stating the unit's willingness to assist them in their educational efforts.

Dropout Prevention Committee

The Superintendent will establish a Dropout Prevention Committee, approved by the Board, to study the problem of dropouts, truancy, and the need for alternative programs from kindergarten to grade 12, in accordance with the requirements of state law. The Committee will submit a plan of action to the Board. The Committee will meet at least annually thereafter to review the plan and make recommendations to the Board as appropriate.

The Dropout Prevention Committee should be composed of the following members, appointed on an annual basis:

1. A member of the Board selected by the Board;
2. A school administrator selected by the Superintendent;
3. A teacher and a school counselor selected by the teachers' organization;
4. A parent selected by the local parent group or by the Board if no such group exists;
5. A school attendance coordinator selected by the Superintendent;

6. A high school student selected by the Dropout Prevention Committee members;
7. A dropout selected by the Dropout Prevention Committee members; and
8. A community resident of the district selected by the Dropout Prevention Committee members.

The Committee will select a chair from among its members.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S. §§5001-A; 5102-5104-A
Maine Department of Education Rule Chapter 125

Cross Reference: JEA - Compulsory Student Attendance
JHB - Truancy

This is a required policy.

Adopted: June 6, 2013

Revised: January 18, 2018

Reviewed: January 6, 2022