



DROPOUT PREVENTION, TRUANCY AND STUDENT WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

The Regional School Unit-24 (RSU) Board (RSUB) believes that a high school diploma signifies the minimum preparation for success in life. The RSUB strongly urges Building Administrators (BA), staff, parents and members of the community to encourage all students to remain in school until they graduate from high school.

Dropout Prevention Committee

In order to reduce the dropout rate within the RSU, the Superintendent shall establish a Dropout Prevention Committee (DPC) to study the problems of dropout and habitual truancy, as well as all programs pre-kindergarten to grade twelve. The DPC will generally meet four (4) times annually to discuss and make recommendations for addressing the problem, and submit a recommended plan of action to the RSUB in accordance with the provisions in Maine law.

As a minimum the DPC will consider the following areas when developing its plan: reasons students drop out of school; maintenance of continuing contacts with recent dropouts in order to extend opportunities for alternate/modified educational programs, counseling, and referral; education of teachers and administrators about the dropout problem; use of human services programs to help dropouts; the RSU policies on suspension, expulsion, and other disciplinary action; and practices and attitudes within the RSU.

DPC Membership

As required by law, the DPC shall be composed of the following members:

- A. Two (2) members of the RSUB selected by the RSUB;
- B. A BA from each high school, one K-8 building administrator and one adult education administrator, all selected by the Superintendent;
- C. A teacher and a school counselor selected by the Superintendent;
- D. A parent from each RSU high school selected by the RSUB;
- E. A school attendance coordinator from the RSU selected by the Superintendent;
- F. A student from each high school selected by the DPC members selected in paragraphs A to E;
- G. A student with an interrupted high school education selected by the DPC members selected in paragraphs A to E; and
- H. A community resident of the RSU selected by the DPC members selected in paragraphs A to E.

The RSUB recognizes the importance of success as a motivator and as a factor in a student's commitment to education. Students who have been identified as being at risk of leaving school should be encouraged to participate in the alternate/modified educational programs that are offered in the RSU or in other instructional, vocational, or social service programs for which they may be eligible.

Student Withdrawal from School

- A. BAs should arrange for regular contact to be made with students who have withdrawn from their school 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 RSU's willingness to assist them in their educational efforts.
- B. BA's are not required to contact students that have withdrawn from the RSU and are being home schooled.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA §§ 5001-A; 5051-A; 5102-5104-A

Cross Reference: IHBH – Modified Educational Opportunities
JEA – Compulsory Attendance

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