

Students

Withdrawal from School/Dropouts Policy

Parents and those who have the control of children five years of age and over and under eighteen years of age, are obligated by Connecticut law to require their children to attend public school regularly during the hours and terms the public school in the district in which such child resides is in session, unless such child is a high school graduate or the parent or person having control of such child is able to show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the studies taught in the public schools. For the school year commencing July 1, 2011 and each school year thereafter, the parent or person having control of a child seventeen years of age may consent to such child's withdrawal from school. The parent or person shall exercise this option by personally appearing at the school district office to sign a withdrawal form. Such withdrawal form shall include an attestation from a school counselor or school administrator of the school that the district has provided the parent or person with information on the educational options available in the school system and in the community.

The administration, guidance staff and faculty of the school system shall extend every possible effort to the end that each student may meet with success in his/her school program, have a favorable school experience and earn a diploma. Every attempt will be made to identify the potential dropout and to provide the appropriate resources in order to assist such students.

Any student who seeks to drop out of school shall be referred immediately to a school counselor or school administrator. The interval between the student's announcement of his/her desire to leave and the possible presentation of the written consent will be used to attempt to dissuade the student from leaving and to resolve his/her problems so that he/she might continue in school and finish satisfactorily.

Students identified by the staff as potential or immediate dropouts will be encouraged to continue to attend school and will meet with his/her school counselor. Subsequent meetings could include other applicable school staff and the student's parent or person in control. Discussion will include but may not be limited to the following subjects:

- Reason for leaving school
- Student's plans for the future
- Present scholastic standing
- Additional education programs/classes, or other materials which may be mutually agreed to
- Graduate Equivalency Diploma

If after the above discussions have been held, and the student remains firm on his/her intent to leave school, the above referenced withdrawal form must be completed. The student, if under 18 years of age, must have a parent or person in control personally appear in the district school office to complete the required withdrawal form. If the student is at or above the age of majority no such parental consent shall be sought.