

STUDENT WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

Dropout Prevention:

The Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D. School Committee believes that a high school diploma signifies the minimum preparation for life. Therefore, the School Committee strongly urges every teacher, guidance counselor, principal, parent and citizen to exert influence to keep all students in school through high school.

In order to reduce the school dropout rate, the Superintendent shall establish a School Completion Committee (Dropout Prevention) to study the problem of dropouts, habitual truancy and the need for alternative programs, kindergarten to grade 12. The committee will meet at least annually, make recommendations for addressing the problem, and submit a plan of action to the School Committee in accordance with the provisions in Maine law. The committee will consider the following when developing its plan: reasons why students drop out of school; maintenance of continuing contacts with recent dropouts in order to extend opportunities for alternate educational programs, counseling, and referral; education of teachers and administrators about the dropout problem; use of human services programs to help dropouts; the unit's policies on suspension, expulsion and other disciplinary action; and discriminatory practices and attitudes within the unit.

Membership:

The School Completion Committee shall be composed of the following members:

1. A member of the School Committee selected by the School Committee,
2. A school administrator selected by the Superintendent of Schools,
3. A teacher and a school counselor selected by the teachers' organization,
4. A parent selected by the local parent group or by the School Committee if no such group exists,
5. A school attendance coordinator from the District selected by the Superintendent of Schools,
6. A high school student selected by the School Completion Committee members selected in paragraph 1 to 5,
7. A dropout selected by the School Completion Committee members selected in paragraphs 1 to 5, and
8. A community resident of the District selected by the School Completion Committee members selected in paragraphs 1 to 5.

The School Committee recognizes the importance of success as a motivator and as a factor in a student's commitment to education. For those students who have been identified as at risk of dropping out, every reasonable effort will be made to provide alternative instructional arrangements that take into account both the student's need for success and the District's commitment to adequate minimum standards of achievement.

In the event that students do withdraw from school, school administrators shall arrange for regular contacts to be made with them for the purpose of informing them of the process for re-

admission, making them aware of alternatives in the community for continuing their education, and stating the District's willingness to assist them in their educational efforts.

Legal Reference: Title 20A M.S.R.A. § 5101 ET SEQ.

Adopted by the Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D. School Committee:

09/11/91