

## **DROPOUT PREVENTION STUDENT WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL**

The Board believes that an education prepares a child for success in life. Therefore, the Board strongly urges school administrators, staff, parents, and members of the community to encourage students to remain in school.

### **Attendance coordinators**

1. **Appointment.** The school board shall appoint an attendance coordinator annually. Vacancies shall be filled as they occur.
2. **Qualifications.** An attendance coordinator shall be a professionally certified or registered person in the mental health, social welfare or educational system and who is qualified to carry out the duties in accordance with rules established by the State Board of Education.
3. **Duties.** The duties of an attendance coordinator shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - A. When notified by a principal that a student's attendance is irregular, interviewing the student and the parent or parents or guardian or guardians to determine the cause of the irregular attendance and file a written report with the principal;
  - B. Filing an annual report with the superintendent summarizing school year activities, findings and recommendations regarding truants; and
  - C. Serving as a member of the dropout prevention committee in accordance with section 5103.

### **Dropout Prevention Committee**

In order to reduce the school dropout rate, the Superintendent shall establish a Dropout Prevention Committee to study the problem of dropouts, habitual truancy, and the need for alternative programs, kindergarten to grade 8. The Committee will meet at least annually, make recommendations for addressing the problem, and submit a plan of action to the Board 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 Board's policies on suspension, expulsion, and other disciplinary action; and discriminatory practices and attitudes within the unit.

### **Committee Membership**

As required by law, the Dropout Prevention Committee shall be composed of the following members:

- A. A member of the Board selected by the Board;
- B. A school administrator selected by the Superintendent;
- C. A teacher and a school counselor selected by the teachers' organization;

- D. A parent selected by the local organized parent group or by the Board if no such group exists;
- E. A school attendance coordinator from the school system selected by the Superintendent;
- F. A high school student selected by the Dropout Prevention Committee members selected in paragraphs A to E;
- G. A dropout selected by the Dropout Prevention Committee members selected in paragraphs A to E; and
- H. A community resident of the district selected by the Dropout Prevention Committee members selected in paragraphs A to E.

The Board 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 dropping out should be encouraged to participate in any alternative educational programs that are offered in this school unit or in other instructional, vocational or social service programs for which they may be eligible.

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

Cross Reference: JEA - Compulsory Attendance

Adopted: December 1, 2005

