MIDDLETOWN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Policy 5147: Dropout Prevention

Adopted Date: 12/13/2024

The Governing Board expects all students to remain in school until graduation in order to acquire critical knowledge and skills and be prepared for postsecondary education and/or employment. The Superintendent or designee shall identify factors that impede student success in school and shall implement integrated, systemic support and strategies that address dropout prevention and promote timely intervention and recovery.

The Superintendent or designee, in collaboration with community agencies and organizations as appropriate, shall develop districtwide and schoolwide strategies that support regular school attendance for all students. Dropout prevention strategies shall include efforts to provide a safe and positive learning environment that engages and motivates students, encourages students' connectedness to the schools, offers meaningful educational opportunities, and promotes student health and well-being.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies to provide targeted support to individual students who are at risk of dropping out of school. Students may be identified based on indicators such as chronic absenteeism, truancy, or tardiness; below-grade-level academic achievement as evidenced by student assessment results and/or teacher evaluations; and personal, social, health, or economic circumstances that may affect student performance and behavior in school.

Strategies to support students at risk of dropping out of school may include, but are not limited to:

1. Meetings and/or home visits with the student and parent/guardian to identify and address barriers to the student's success and inform them of the state's compulsory education law
2. Individualized instruction that responds to the needs and unique learning styles of students
3. Supplemental instruction during or outside the school day that is designed to help students overcome academic deficiencies
4. Enrollment in alternative or specialized educational programs
5. Assistance locating employment or work-based learning opportunities which link classroom learning with real-world experiences
6. Academic guidance and personal counseling services
7. Referral to a student success team, school attendance review board, or other team that addresses persistent attendance problems
8. Referral to school and/or community support services, such as a student assistance program, health services, social services, a substance abuse program, and other resources
9. Continued monitoring of student attendance
10. Employment of qualified outreach consultants to perform duties related to dropout identification, prevention, intervention, and recovery as assigned

The strategies may be incorporated into the district's local control and accountability plan and linked to district goals for student engagement, school climate, and student achievement.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that employees are trained to support at-risk students and are prepared to implement intervention strategies or to make appropriate referrals to support services.

When a student leaves school prior to the end of a school year, or when a student successfully completed the prior school year but did not begin attending the next grade or school that he/she was expected to attend or had pre-registered to attend, the Superintendent or designee shall make efforts to determine whether the student has dropped out or has transferred to another educational setting. The Superintendent or designee may contact the student's parents/guardians to verify school enrollment and, if necessary, shall implement intervention and recovery efforts.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to the Board on measures of student engagement, including school attendance rates, chronic absenteeism rates, middle school and high school dropout rates, and high school graduation rates. The Board shall monitor district progress in increasing student retention in school and may require revisions in district plans and strategies as needed.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:
These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
Ed. Code 35160	Authority of governing boards
Ed. Code 48200	Compulsory education
Ed. Code 48260-48273	Truancy
Ed. Code 48400-48403	Compulsory continuation education
Ed. Code 48430-48438	Continuation education
Ed. Code 48660-48666	Community day schools
Ed. Code 49600-49604	Educational counseling
Ed. Code 51260-51269	Gang and substance abuse prevention curriculum
Ed. Code 51745	Independent study
Ed. Code 52060-52077	Local control and accountability plan
Ed. Code 52300-52334	Regional occupational centers and programs
Ed. Code 54690-54697	Partnership academies
Ed. Code 60900	California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System
Ed. Code 64001	School plan for student achievement; consolidated application programs
W&I Code 18986.40-18986.46	Interagency children's services programs

Federal	Description

20 USC 6301-6322	Title I programs

Management Resources	**Description**
CSBA Publication	California High School Graduation and Dropout Rates, Fact Sheet, May 2013
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	California Dropout Research Project
Website	California Student Assistance Program Resource Center
Website	National Dropout Prevention Center
Website	U.S. Department of Education
Website	CSBA
Website	California Department of Education

Cross References

Code	**Description**
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan
0470	COVID-19 Mitigation Plan
4131	Staff Development
5030	Student Wellness
5113	Absences And Excuses
5113	Absences And Excuses
5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy
5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy
5113.11	Attendance Supervision
5113.12	District School Attendance Review Board
5113.12	District School Attendance Review Board
5113.2	Work Permits
5113.2	Work Permits
5123	Promotion/Acceleration/Retention
5123	Promotion/Acceleration/Retention
5131.6	Alcohol And Other Drugs
5131.6	Alcohol And Other Drugs
5136	Gangs
5136	Gangs

5137	Positive School Climate
5141.6	School Health Services
5141.6	School Health Services
5146	Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students
5148.2	Before/After School Programs
5148.2	Before/After School Programs
6120	Response To Instruction And Intervention
6146.1	High School Graduation Requirements
6146.2	Certificate Of Proficiency/High School Equivalency
6146.2	Certificate Of Proficiency/High School Equivalency
6146.2-E(1)	Certificate Of Proficiency/High School Equivalency
6158	Independent Study
6158	Independent Study
6164.2	Guidance/Counseling Services
6164.5	Student Success Teams
6164.5	Student Success Teams
6172	Gifted And Talented Student Program
6172	Gifted And Talented Student Program
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth
6173.4	Education For American Indian Students
6177	Summer Learning Programs
6178.1	Work-Based Learning
6178.1	Work-Based Learning
6178.2	Regional Occupational Center/Program
6179	Supplemental Instruction
6184	Continuation Education
6184	Continuation Education