

SCHOOL UNION 76

SCHOOL BOARD POLICY NUMBER: 10.10

NEPA/NSBA: IHBC, JFC

Adopted: 4/14/21

DROPOUT PREVENTION/ATTENDANCE

1. The SU 76 Board believes that a high school diploma signifies the minimum academic preparation for life. Therefore, the Board strongly urges every staff member (counselor, administrator etc.), parent, and citizen to exert influence to keep all students in school through high school.
2. 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, prekindergarten to grade 12. The Committee will have two working groups: one to focus on grades Prek – 8 and one to focus on grades 9-12. The grades PreK – 8 work group will meet each trimester. The grades 9-12 group will meet quarterly. The entire committee will meet at least two times per year, but more frequently as needed to coordinate efforts.
3. In order to prevent the withdrawal of students, the administration and Dropout Committee shall monitor the progress of SU76 students through to graduation and, in particular, will work with receiving high schools for grades 9-12 on dropout prevention strategies when needed.
4. As required by law, the Dropout Prevention Committee shall be composed of the following members:
 - a. Two members of the SU 76 Board selected by the Board;
 - b. An elementary school and a high school administrator
 - c. An elementary school and a high school teacher selected by the school administrative unit's teacher organization, and an elementary school counselor and a representative from the DISHS Guidance Office.
 - d. An elementary school and a high school parent selected by the organized parent group, or, if no organized parent group exists, by the School Board;
 - e. The school attendance coordinator for SU 76.
 - f. A high school student selected by the Dropout Prevention Committee and a middle school student from a different district than the HS student;
 - g. A former student who dropped out of school selected by the Dropout Prevention Committee; and
 - h. A community resident of the district selected by the Dropout Prevention Committee.
5. The members of the Dropout Prevention Committee shall serve for terms of three years.
6. The Dropout Prevention Committee and workgroup activities will be coordinated by the SU76 Director of Student Services, who will serve on the committee and the workgroups.
7. The Dropout Prevention Committee shall select a chair from among its members.

8. The responsibilities of the Dropout Prevention Committee are:
 - a. Study the problem of dropouts, habitual truancy and the need for K-12 alternative programs.
 - b. Make recommendations for addressing the problems and submit an action plan to the School Board in accordance with Maine State Law, Section 4502.
9. The Dropout Prevention Committee shall consider the following when developing its plan:
 - a. Reasons why students dropout of school
 - b. Maintenance of continuing contacts with recent dropouts in order to extend opportunities for alternative educational programs, counseling and referral
 - c. Provide information for teachers and administrators about the dropout problem
 - d. Use human services programs to help dropouts
 - e. Review the school system's policies on suspension, expulsion and other disciplinary action
 - f. Discriminatory practices and attitudes within the school system.
10. The Board 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 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.
11. In the event of a student withdrawing from school, the Principal of that school will inform the student of the process of readmission, making them aware of alternatives for continuing their education, and stating the school system's willingness to assist them in their educational efforts.
12. When tuition is being paid, that tuition for a truant student will be paid only through the 10th unexcused absence.
13. The Principal shall report to the appropriate district School Board when a student withdraws from school.
14. Reports on dropouts shall be filed in accordance with Maine Statutes.
15. In the event that students do withdraw from school, school administrators shall annually, until the student's eighteenth birthday, arrange for personal contact to be made with them 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 district's willingness to assist them in their educational efforts.