

## **Students**

### **Dropouts**

Parents and/or guardians 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 day school or its equivalent in the district in which such child resides, unless such child is a high school graduate or the parent or guardian of such child is able to show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the studies taught in the public schools. The parent or guardian of a child sixteen or seventeen years of age may consent to such child's withdrawal from school. For the school year commencing July 1, 2011 and each school year thereafter, the parent or guardian of a child seventeen years of age may consent to such child's withdrawal from school. The parent or guardian 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 guidance counselor or school administrator of the school that the district has provided the parent or guardian 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.

If the drop-out rate of the District is determined to be 8% or higher in the previous school year, the Board of Education shall establish an on-line credit recovery program for those students who are identified as being in danger of failing to graduate. These students, once identified by certified personnel, must be allowed to complete on-line District-approved coursework toward meeting high school graduation requirements. Each high school within the District shall designate, from among existing staff, an online learning coordinator to administer and coordinate the online credit recovery program.

Any student who seeks to drop out of school shall be referred immediately to a guidance counselor or school administrator. The student, if under eighteen years of age, must present to the guidance counselor or administrator the required written parental consent of his/her withdrawal. If the student is at or above the age of majority no such parental consent shall be sought. A student under age eighteen shall not be allowed to withdraw who has not presented such parental consent.

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.

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(cf. 5111 - Admission)  
(cf. 5112 - Ages of Attendance)  
(cf. 5113 - Admission/Excuses/Dismissal)  
(cf. 5113.2 - Truancy)  
(cf. 6146 - Graduation Requirements)  
(cf. 6172.6 - Virtual/Online Courses)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-184 Duties of parents as amended by PA 98-243, PA 00-157and PA 09-6 (September Special Session)

10-199 through 10-202 Attendance, truancy - in general.

10-221a High school graduation requirements. (as amended by P.A. 00-124, An Act Concerning High School Diplomas and Veterans of World War II, P.A. 00-156, An Act Requiring a Civics Course for High School Graduation and P.A. 08-138, An Act Concerning High School Credit for Private World Language Courses, Other Subject Areas) and P.A. 10-111, An Act Concerning Education Reform in Connecticut.

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THOMASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Thomaston, Connecticut