

POLICY ON SCHOOL DROPOUTS

Definition: A school dropout is a youngster who exits school prior to graduation for reasons other than moving from Holmdel.

Procedures: The following procedures will be followed:

1. The faculty at all schools in Holmdel will review the following list annually in cooperation with the building principal to identify potential dropouts.
2. Identification of characteristics of potential dropouts:
 - a. Poor grades or failure in courses
 - b. Poorly prepared for class
 - c. Lack of interest in academics
 - d. Lack of support at home
 - e. May come from a dysfunctional family
 - f. Disruptive
 - g. Low self-esteem
 - h. Poor study skills
 - i. May abuse drugs and alcohol
 - j. May feel isolated and uncared for
 - k. High absentee rate
 - l. Holds a full time job
 - m. Pregnancy

- n. Low educational attainment of parents
 - o. Continued poor health
 - p. Poorly motivated
3. Students viewed by staff as potential dropouts will be referred to their counselor through use of a referral form and/or to the Child Study Team if they are classified.
4. The counselor will meet with the student and develop a plan to help the student using one or more of the following strategies:
- a. Referral will be made to the school's Pupil Assistance Committee.
 - b. A Teacher-Mentor Program will be initiated involving teacher-volunteers who are willing to serve as mentors to disaffected pupils and potential dropouts.
 - c. Annual meetings will be conducted with representatives from the Holmdel Schools for the purpose of discussing disaffected students and potential dropouts and to better coordinate effective strategies on their behalf.
5. Other strategies that may be used include, but are not limited to:
- a. Utilizing the learning center
 - b. Adjusting academic program
 - c. Enrollment in the County vocational program
 - d. Developing a school/work program
6. If all fails and the student does drop out, the following procedures will be followed:
- a. Student will meet with counselor and will be informed of all alternate routes to receiving a high school diploma;
 - b. State form will be completed;
 - c. Parents will be contacted and informed of alternate high school programs and equivalency diploma opportunities;

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- d. Student will return all books and meet with teachers to sign out;
and
- e. Student will be made aware that he/she can re-enroll at Holmdel
High School the following year.

Source: Regular Board Meeting

Date: October 18, 1989

Revised: May 28, 1997

