

Hermon School Department

**Dropout Prevention
Student Withdrawal from School**

The Hermon School Committee believes that a high school diploma signifies preparation for life. Therefore, the Hermon School Committee strongly urges every teacher, guidance counselor, principal, parent, and citizen to exert influence to keep all students in school through high school.

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 12. The Committee will meet at least annually, make recommendations for addressing the problem, and submit a plan of action to the School Committee 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 contracts with recent dropouts in order to extend opportunities for alternate educational program, counseling and referral; education of teachers and administrators about the dropout problem; use of human services programs to help dropouts; the School Committee'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 School Committee selected by the School Committee;
- B. A school administrator selected by the superintendent;
- C. A teacher and a school counselor selected by the teacher's organization;
- D. A parent selected by the local parent group or by the School Committee 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 paragraph A to E (Students will not be involved in face-to-face meetings with peers who are potential dropouts.);

- 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 Hermon School Committee 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 needs for success and the Hermon School Department's commitment to satisfactory standards of achievement.

Student Withdrawal from School

In the event that students do withdraw from school, school administrators shall arrange for regular contacts 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 Hermon School Department's willingness to assist them in their educational efforts.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 5001-A, 5102-5103