

Students

Admission/Placement

Admission

District schools shall be open to all children five years of age and over who reach age five on or before the first day of January of that school year. Each such child shall have, and shall be so advised by the appropriate school authorities, an equal opportunity to participate in the program and activities of the school system without discrimination on account of race, color, sex, religion, national origin or sexual orientation. Students who are classified as homeless under federal law, and therefore do not have a fixed residence, will be admitted pursuant to federal law and policy 5118.1. Exceptions from routine admission may be made by the school Principal on the basis of supporting evidence from physical and psychological examinations.

The parent or person having control of a child five years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is six or seven years of age.

The parent or person shall exercise such option by personally appearing at the school district office and signing an option form. The district shall provide the parent or person with information on the educational opportunities available in the school system.

According to Connecticut General Statute 10-76d (b2), special education will be provided for children who have attained the age of three and who have been identified as being in need of special education, and whose educational potential will be irreparably diminished without special education. If a special education student is being considered for an exception, the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) will make a recommendation to the administrator in charge of special education.

Each child entering the district schools for the first time must present a birth certificate or offer legal evidence of birth data, as well as proof of a recent physical examination and required immunizations. If the parents or guardians of any children are unable to pay for such immunizations, the expense of such immunizations shall on the recommendation of the Board, be paid by the district. Proof of residence may also be requested by the Building Principal.

Any child entering or returning to the district from placement in a juvenile detention school, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, or any other residential placement, shall have the educational records of such child provided to the Superintendent of Schools by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Judicial Department. Such information will be shared with the Principal of the school to which the student is assigned. The Principal can disclose them to the staff who teach or care for the child.

Students

Admission/Placement

The District will immediately enroll any student who transfers from Unified School District No. 1 or Unified School District No. 2. A student transferring from the Unified School Districts who had previously attended school in the local District shall be enrolled in the school such student previously attended, provided such school has the appropriate grade level for the student.

The parent or person having control of a child 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 person having control of a child seventeen years of age 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 person with information on the educational options available in the school system and in the community.

Children who have attained the age of seventeen and who have terminated enrollment in the district's schools with parental permission as described previously and subsequently seeks readmission may be denied readmission for up to ninety school days from the date of such termination, unless such child seeks readmission to a district school not later than ten days after such termination. In such case the child will be provided school accommodations not later than three days after the requested readmission.

Note: *When a student is enrolling in a new school district or new state charter school, written notification of such enrollment shall be provided to the previous school district or charter school not later than two business days after the student enrolls.*

Children who apply for initial admission to the district's schools by transfer from nonpublic schools or from schools outside the district will be placed at the grade they would have reached elsewhere pending observation and evaluation by classroom teachers, guidance personnel, and the school Principal. After such observations and evaluations have been completed, the Principal will determine the final grade placement of the children.

Children who have attained the age of nineteen or older may be placed in an alternative school program or other suitable educational program if they cannot acquire a sufficient number of credits for graduation by age twenty-one.

(cf. 0521 - Nondiscrimination)

(cf. 5112 - Ages of Attendance)

(cf. 5118.1 - Homeless Students)

(cf. 5141 - Student Health Services)

(cf. 6171 - Special Education)

(cf. 6146 - Graduation Requirements)

Students

Admission/Placement

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-15 Towns to maintain schools
10-15c Discrimination in public schools prohibited. School attendance by five-year olds, as amended by PA 97-247
10-76a - 10-76g re special education
10-184 Duties of parents (re mandatory schooling for children ages five to sixteen, inclusive) - as amended by PA 98-243, PA 00-157 and PA 09-6 (September Special Session)
10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance. Hearings. Appeals to state board. Establishment of hearing board. Readmission, as amended.
10-220h Transfer of student records, as amended.
P.A. 11-115 An Act Concerning Juvenile Reentry and Education
10-233a - 10-233f Inclusive; re: suspend, expel, removal of pupils
10-233c Suspension of pupils
10-233d Expulsion of pupils
10-233k Notification of school officials of potentially dangerous students. (as amended by PA 01-176)
10-261 Definitions
State Board of Education Regulations
10-76a-1 General definitions (c) (d) (q) (t)
10-76d-7 Admission of student requiring special education (referral)
10-204a Required immunizations (as amended by PA 98-243)
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq.
Plyler vs. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OPTION TO EXEMPT ATTENDANCE
OF CHILD FIVE OR SIX YEARS OF AGE FROM SCHOOL

Pursuant to Section 10-184 of the Connecticut General Statutes

I, _____, of _____,
Name of Parent, Guardian or Other **Address**

the parent, guardian or other person charged with the care of the following minor child

_____, of _____ who was
Name of Child **Address**

born on _____ do hereby choose not to send my child to public
Date

school during the _____.
School Year

Furthermore, before signing this form, a representative of the _____
Name of District

school district met with me and provided me with information concerning the
educational opportunities and school accommodations available in the school system.

ACKNOWLEDGED BY:

Signature of Parent, Guardian or Other

Date

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OPTION TO EXEMPT ATTENDANCE
OF CHILD SEVENTEEN YEARS OF AGE FROM SCHOOL

Pursuant to Section 10-184 of the Connecticut General Statutes

I, _____, of _____,
Name of Parent, Guardian or Other **Address**

the parent, guardian or other person charged with the care of the following minor child

_____, of _____ who was
Name of Child **Address**

born on _____ do hereby elect to with draw my child from public
Date

school. Furthermore, before signing this form, a representative of the _____
Name of District

school district met with me and provided me with information concerning the
educational opportunities and school accommodations available in the school system.

ACKNOWLEDGED BY:

Signature of Parent, Guardian or Other

Date

Students

Ages of Attendance

In accordance with Connecticut General Statute 10-186, the Board of Education shall provide education for all persons five years of age and older, having attained age five on or before the first day of January of any school year, and under twenty-one years of age who is not a graduate of a high school or vocational school except as provided in C.G.S. 10-233c and 10-233d. Additionally, according to Connecticut General Statute 10-76d (b2), special education will be provided for children who have attained the age of three and who have been identified as being in need of special education, and whose educational potential will be irreparably diminished without special education.

Parents and those who have the care 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 the parent or person having control 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 person having control of a child seventeen years of age must consent to such child's withdrawal from school. For the school year commencing July 1, 2011 and each school year thereafter, the parent or person having control of a child seventeen years of age may consent to such child's withdrawal from school. The parent or person 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 this district has provided the parent or person with information on the educational opportunities options available in the school system and in the community.

The parent or person having control of a child five years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is six or seven years of age.

The parent or person shall exercise such option by personally appearing at the school district office and signing an option form. The district shall provide the parent or person with information on the educational opportunities available in the school system.

A child who has attained the age of seventeen and who has terminated enrollment with parental consent in the district's schools and subsequently seeks readmission may be denied readmission for up to ninety school days from the date of such termination. A student who has attained the age of nineteen at the time of enrollment and who cannot earn sufficient credits to graduate by age twenty-one may be assigned to an alternative education program such as adult education.

(cf. 5111 - Admission/Placement)
(cf. 5112 - Ages of Attendance)
(cf. 6146 - Graduation Requirements)

Students

Ages of Attendance

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-15 Towns to maintain schools
10-15c Discrimination in public schools prohibited. School attendance by five-year-olds
10-76a - 10-76g re: special education
10-184 Duties of parents (re: mandatory schooling for children ages five to sixteen, inclusive) as amended by PA-98-243.
10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance. Hearings. (Amended by PA 96-26 An Act Concerning Graduation Requirements and Readmission and Placement of Older Students)
Appeals to State Board. Establishment of hearing board
10-233a - 10-233f Inclusive; re: suspend, expel, removal of pupils
10-233c Suspension of pupils
10-233d Expulsion of pupils
State Board of Education Regulations
10-76a-1 General definitions (c) (d) (q) (t)
10-76d-7 Admission of student requiring special education (referral)
10-204 Required immunizations (as amended by PA 98-243)
McKinney – Vento Homeless Assistance *Act*, 42 U.S.C. § 11431 et. seq.
Plyler vs. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982)

Students

Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal

Attendance

Connecticut state law requires parents to cause their children, ages five through eighteen inclusive, to attend school regularly during the hours and terms the public school is in session. Parents or persons having control of a child five years of age have the option of not sending the child to school until ages six or seven. Mandatory attendance terminates upon graduation or withdrawal with written parent/guardian consent at age seventeen.

A student is considered to be “in attendance” if present at his/her assigned school, or an activity sponsored by the school (e.g., field trip), for at least half of the regular school day. A student who is serving an out-of-school suspension or expulsion should always be considered absent. A student not meeting the definition of “in attendance” shall be considered absent.

Classroom learning experiences are the basis for public school education. Time lost from class is lost instructional opportunity. The Board of Education requires that accurate records be kept of the attendance of each child, and students should not be absent from school without parental knowledge and consent.

Excuses

Note: *The use of the state approved definitions of “excused” and “unexcused” absences are for state purposes for the reporting of truancy. Districts are not precluded from using separate definitions of such absences for their internal uses such as involving decisions on areas such as promotion and grading.*

A student’s absence from school shall be considered “excused” if written documentation of the reason for such absence has been submitted within ten (10) school days of the student’s return to school and meets the following criteria:

- A. For absences one through nine, a student’s absences from school are considered “excused” when the student’s parent/guardian approves such absence and submits appropriate documentation to school officials.

Such documentation includes a signed note from the student’s parent/guardian, a signed note from a school official that spoke in person with the parent/guardian regarding the absence, or a note confirming the absence by the school nurse or by a licensed medical professional, as appropriate. Documentation should explain the nature of and the reason for the absence as well as the length of the absence. Separate documentation must be submitted for each incidence of absenteeism.

Students

Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal

Excuses (continued)

- B. For the tenth absence and all absences thereafter, a student’s absences from school are considered excused for the following reasons:
- 1. Student illness (must be verified by a licensed medical professional to be deemed excused, regardless of the length of the absence);
 - 2. Student’s observance of a religious holiday;
 - 3. Death in the student’s family or other emergency beyond the control of the student’s family;
 - 4. Mandated court appearances (documentation required);
 - 5. The lack of transportation that is normally provided by a district other than the one the student attends (no parental documentation required);
 - 6. Extraordinary educational opportunities pre-approved by District administration and to be in accordance with Connecticut State Department of Education guidance.
- C. A student’s absence from school shall be considered unexcused unless:
- 1. The absence meets the definition of an excused absence and meets the documentation requirements; or
 - 2. The absence meets the definition of a disciplinary absence, which is the result of school or District disciplinary action and are excluded from these State Board of Education approved definitions.

When the school in which a child is enrolled receives no notification from a parent or other person having control of the child is aware of the child’s absence, a reasonable effort shall be made by school personnel or volunteers under the direction of school personnel to notify by telephone and by mail such parent or other person having control of the child.

The required mailed notice shall include a warning that two unexcused absences from school in one month or five unexcused absences in a school year may result in a complaint filed with the Superior Court alleging the belief that the acts or omissions of the child are such that the child’s family is a family with service needs.

Responsibility for completion of missed classwork lies with the student, not the teacher. Unless a student has an extended illness, all make-up work will be complete within five days after the student returns to school.

Dismissal

No school, grade, or class may be dismissed before the regularly scheduled dismissal time without the approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Students

Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal

Dismissal (continued)

No teacher may permit any individual student to leave school prior to the regular hour of dismissal without the permission of the Principal.

No student may be permitted to leave school at any time other than at regular dismissal without the approval of the student’s parent/guardian. If a court official with legal permission to take custody of a child, or if a police officer arrests a student, the parent/guardian should be notified of these situations by the administration.

(cf. 5142 - Student Safety)
(cf. 5113.2 - Truancy)
(cf. 6113 - Released Time)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-184 Duties of parents (as amended by PA 98-243 and PA 00-157)
10-185 Penalty
10-198a Policies and procedures concerning truants (as amended by P.A.11-136, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes.)
10-199 through 10-202 Attendance, truancy - in general
Action taken by State Board of Education on January 2, 2008, to define “attendance.”
Action taken by State Board of Education on June 27, 2012, to define “excused” and “unexcused” absences.

ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF OBLIGATIONS UNDER C.G.S. 10-184

Dear _____

Connecticut law requires that the Regional School District No. 17 Public Schools provide you with this written notice of your obligations under Connecticut General Statute 10-184. This law provides that each parent or other person having control of a child five years of age and older and under eighteen years of age is obligated to cause the child to attend school regularly during the hours and terms school is in session, unless such parent or other person shows that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction or the child is otherwise not required to attend school by statute. Connecticut General Statute 10-185 provides that each day's failure to comply with these requirements is a separate offense, punishable by a \$25.00 fine.

Regular student attendance is essential to the educational process. So that we may seek to inform you if your child is absent without explanation, the law also requires that we must obtain from you a telephone number or other means of contacting you during the school day. Please meet this obligation by filling out and promptly returning the form below.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

(Principal)

	FATHER	MOTHER
_____	_____	_____
Mother's Name (please print)	Address	Address
_____	_____	_____
	Home Phone	Home Phone
_____	_____	_____
Father's Name (please print)	Work Address	Work Address
_____	_____	_____
Name(s) of student(s):	Work Phone	Work Phone
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	Emergency Phone #1 (Relative, Friend, Neighbor)	Emergency Phone #2

Students

Promotion/Acceleration/Retention

The educational program shall provide for the continuous progress of children from grade to grade, with children generally spending one year in each grade. Children shall be placed at the grade level to which they are best adjusted academically, socially and emotionally.

Insofar as possible, retention in a grade or assignment to another grade will be decided through conferences involving the Principal, teachers and parents. The school psychologist and other specialists will enter into conferences if and when necessary. The overall best interest of the student will always be of prime consideration. Consideration for retention will only be made after notification and explanation to each student's parents/guardians. The final decision on retention or promotion of any student will rest with the school authorities

The Board directs the administration to develop promotion and retention procedures for the school system. These are to be published in the building handbooks and made known to students, parents and the staff.

All decisions will be individualized and the result of a conference involving the student assistance team. Parents will be involved in all decisions regarding retention, however, the final decision will rest with the school authorities

Promotion at the high school is determined by the total number of accumulated credits as outlined in the student handbook.

(cf. 5124 - Reporting to Parents)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
PA 99-288 An Act Concerning Education Accountability
10-221(b) Boards of education to prescribe rules.
10-265g Summer reading programs required for priority school districts.
Evaluation of student reading level. Personal reading plans. (as amended by PA 01-173 and PA 06-135)
10-265l Requirements for additional instruction for poor performing students in priority school districts; exemption. Summer school required; exemption (as amended by PA 99-288, PA 01-173, PA 03-174 and PA 06-135)

Policy adopted: August 20, 2013 REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17
Higganum, Connecticut

Students

Threats or Acts of Violence

The Board of Education recognizes that threats or acts of violence have become a major problem in schools throughout the country among young people and, consequently, is a concern to this school system and the community it serves. The Board recognizes that threats or acts of violence are complex and that, while the school may recognize potentially at risk youth, it cannot make clinical assessment of risk and provide in-depth counseling, but must refer the youth to an appropriate place for such assessment and counseling.

Therefore, any school employee who may have knowledge of a threat or act of violence must take the proper steps to report this information to the school principal who will, in turn, notify the appropriate school officials, the student’s family and appropriate resource services.

(cf. 5141.5 - Crisis Management)
(cf. 5141.6 - Safety)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
4-176e through 4-180a. Contested Cases. Notice. Record.
10-233a through 10-233f. Suspension, removal and expulsion of students, as amended by PA 95-304 and PA 96-244.
53a-3 Definitions.
53a-217b Possession of Firearms and Deadly Weapons on School Grounds.
PA 94-221 An Act Concerning School Discipline and Safety.
GOALS 2000: Educate America Act, Pub. L. 103-227.
18 U.S.C. 921 Definitions.
Title III - Amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
Sec. 314 (Local Control Over Violence)
Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 as amended by the Gun Free Schools Act of 1994
P.L. 105-17 The Individuals with Disabilities Act, Amendment of 1997.

Response to Death Threats/Targets lists:

Take all reports of threats seriously

1. Investigate, interview students, counselor, teacher.
2. Suspend for threatening behavior.
 - a. Even if a joke.
 - b. Consider mobilizing response team or suicide policy if appropriate.
3. Call police?
 - a. Case by case analysis - investigate details, talk to other students.
 - b. If any reasonable suspicion of possible danger - contact police.
4. Notify anyone else?
 - a. Automatic notification to threatening student's parents (suspension letter).
 - b. If any reasonable suspicion of possible danger, notify victim and victim's parents.
5. Consider referral to Special Education.
 - a. Consider whether a referral for emergency PPT is appropriate.
 - i. Is this a repeat incident - history of death threats?
 - ii. Should child have been identified?
 - iii. Consider having an emergency assessment by school counselor and/or psychologist if warranted.
6. Consider whether an expulsion is appropriate, if permitted under special education situation, and the offense warrants such a recommendation.

Students

Vandalism

Vandalism by Minors

The parent or guardian of any minor/unemancipated child who willfully cuts, defaces or otherwise injures in any way any property real or personal, belonging to the school district shall be held liable for all such damages up to the maximum amount allowed under state law.

The liability provided under Connecticut General Statutes 52-572 does not relieve the minor(s) of personal liability for such damage or injury. This liability of the parent for damages done by a minor child is in addition to any other liability which exists in law.

The parent or guardian of a minor child shall also be held liable for all property belonging to the school system lent to the student and not returned upon demand of the school system. The student may also be subject to disciplinary action.

Vandalism by an Adult Student

An adult student shall be held personally liable for any damage done to any property, real or personal, belonging to the school district. The student may also be subject to disciplinary action.

(cf. 6161.2 - Guidelines for Care of Instructional Materials)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221(c) Boards of education to prescribe rules. (re sanctions that may be imposed by a board against students who damage or fail to return textbooks, library materials or educational materials)

52-572 Parental liability for torts of minors. Damage defined.