

Holbrook Public Schools

CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES (CHINS)

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 119, Section 21, defines a “child in need of services” as “a child below the age of seventeen who persistently runs away from the home of his parents or legal guardian, or persistently refuses to obey the lawful and reasonable commands of his parents or legal guardian, thereby resulting in said parent’s or guardian’s inability to adequately care for and protect said child, or a child between the ages of six and sixteen who persistently and willfully fails to attend school or persistently violates the lawful and reasonable regulations of his school.”

It is the policy of the Holbrook School System to mediate any problems informally at the lowest possible level. If corrective actions cannot be initiated at the informal stage, progressive and appropriate discipline will be implemented to address the problem. In all cases the parents are notified and consulted as the seriousness increases. Only as a last resort will a Child in Need of Services Petition be activated.

In any case, where school personnel are considering the appropriateness of filing a petition for a determination that a child is in need of services, such personnel will first submit their concerns and evidence to the “Teachers Supporting Teachers (TST).” This team will consist of at least one administrator, guidance counselor/school psychologist, a teacher, and the school nurse.

The Team will discuss the history of the situation and any alternative strategies. If after this discussion a majority of members agree that a petition is warranted they will submit their recommendation to the principal. The principal, in turn, will notify the Director of Pupil Personnel of the proposed action. If the recommendation of the Team is that a CHINS petition should be filed, the Guidance Counselor will notify the Director of Pupil Personnel that said petition has been filed in accordance with the law.

Before a CHINS petition is filed, the principal will notify the parents to discuss the planned action.

LEGAL REF: MGL 119:21

Adopted: April 9, 2008