

File: J10

WITHDRAWALS

If a student sixteen (16) years of age or older, chooses to leave school voluntarily, the Principal or designee shall, within ten (10) days after the student has ceased to attend school for fifteen consecutive days, send a written notice to the parent/guardian in their primary language requesting that the student and parent/guardian meet with the Principal or designee. The meeting shall be held within ten (10) days from the date of the notice. The time for meeting may be changed at the request of the parent/guardian. The purpose of the meeting shall be to complete an exit interview which will include a review of the reasons for the student leaving school, the student's records, and the student's educational or employment plans.

Pursuant to special education laws, a student is entitled to receive a free, appropriate, public education until such time as he/she receives a high school diploma or equivalent, or reaches the age of 22. If a student is over the age of 18 and is emancipated or does not require legal guardianship, he/she may decide to voluntarily withdraw from the Chicopee Public Schools without having received a high school diploma or its equivalent.

As part of the exit interview, a student will be required to present a signed written statement from his parent/guardian indicating that the student is leaving school of his free will and that there has been no force or pressure to leave school applied upon the student by any school official or employee. In the case of students with disabilities, the Chicopee Public Schools will initiate a legal proceeding before the Bureau of Special Education Appeals to determine whether a particular student may be withdrawn from school, if an exit interview is not conducted.

This section shall not be construed to permanently exclude a student who wishes to resume his education at a later time.

Data regarding these students is maintained by the school principals through the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Student Information Management System; the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education generates an annual report using this data.

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