

### **ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

The Holmdel Township Board of Education endeavors to provide an educational program adjusted to the needs of the individual child within the financial means of the district. Program adaptations provide a means of using staff efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of many children.

When the needs of special individuals or groups cannot be met through adaptation or independent study, the Superintendent shall investigate and propose to the Board for approval alternative programs and facilities.

#### **Home Schooling**

Parents/guardians who wish to instruct their children at home must submit the course of study to the Superintendent and must have the proposed programs approved by the Board of Education. Program approval must be requested on an annual basis.

#### **Disruptive/Disaffected Children**

The Board of Education recognizes that the active engagement of each pupil is a primary requisite for sound teaching and learning to take place. When a child is unable to benefit from the educational program because he/she is either disruptive or disaffected, then the educational goals of the district for that child will not be realized and the efforts of other pupils may be impeded.

In an effort to optimize the educational experience for each child, the Superintendent shall develop procedures to identify and work with disruptive/disaffected pupils.

When it is determined by the Child Study Team that a disruptive/disaffected pupil is not classifiable, the Board shall consider some other program as an alternative to regular classroom attendance. When the district does not have a suitable alternative program available, the Superintendent may recommend to the Board placement of the child in a program of another district, or home instruction.

In accordance with state law and Board policy, disruptive pupils whose continuing attendance interrupts the educational program and/or threatens harm to themselves and others may be suspended and considered for expulsion (see Policy 5114).

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Potential Dropouts

While statute requires attendance of each pupil only until 16 years of age, it is in the best interests of both pupils and the community that they complete the educational program that will equip them with skills and increase their chances for a successful and fulfilling life beyond the schools.

The Board directs that whenever a pupil wishes to withdraw, or has been identified as a potential withdrawal, effort should be made to determine the underlying reasons and the resources of the district should be used to assist the pupil in reaching his/her career goals. No pupil under the age of 18, unless emancipated, will be permitted to withdraw without the written consent of a parent/guardian.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures for withdrawal from school which:

- A. Make counseling services available to any pupil who wishes to withdraw;
- B. Make every effort to satisfy the pupil's future educational needs;
- C. Help the pupil define his/her own educational life goals and help plan the realization of those goals;
- D. Inform the pupil of the high school equivalency program;
- E. Recommend vocational counseling opportunities for job training or placement.

**Source:** Regular Board Meeting

**Date:** May 28, 1997

<b>Legal References:</b>	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:7A-5	Major elements; guidelines
	<u>See particularly:</u>	
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:71-5d, e	
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-1	General mandatory powers and duties
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:38-1, -25	Attendance at school free of charge ...
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:54-20	Powers of Board (county vocational school)
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:8-1.1	Words and terms defined
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:8-4.7	Pupil behavior
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:8-4.10	State and Federally mandated programs and services
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:8-7.1	Promotion and high school graduation requirements
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:28-1.1(b)1	General requirements

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Manual for the Evaluation of Local School Districts (June 1993)

**Possible**

**Cross References:**

*5113	Absences and excuses
*5114	Suspension and expulsion
5119	Transfers
*5134	Married/pregnant pupils
*6142.2	English as a second language; bilingual/bicultural
*6142.12	Career education
*6164.2	Guidance services
*6164.3	School dropouts
*6164.4	Child study team
*6171.4	Special education
*6173	Home instruction

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

