



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Series: 2011-12
Circular Letter: C-5

TO: Superintendents of Schools
Pupil Services Directors

FROM: George A. Coleman
Acting Commissioner of Education

DATE: September 30, 2011

SUBJECT: Mandatory Student Withdrawal Age from School

During the September 2009 Special Session of the Connecticut General Assembly, Public Act 09-6 (now Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-184) added a provision changing the age at which a child may withdraw from school with parental consent to seventeen years old. This provision is applicable to the school year commencing July 1, 2011, and added an attestation requirement for withdrawal. The amendment to Section 10-184 of the C.G.S. states:

*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 a child's withdrawal from school. The parent or person shall personally appear at the school district office and sign a withdrawal form. The withdrawal form shall include an attestation from a guidance counselor or school administrator of the school that the school district has provided the parent or person with information on the educational options available in the school system and in the community.*

Prior to withdrawing a seventeen year old from school, the school administrators or school counselors' responsibility will be twofold. First, the administrator or counselor shall ensure that the parent/guardian is present and signs the withdrawal form; and second, attests that the school district has provided the parent/guardian with information on the educational options available in the school system and in the community. The Connecticut State Department of Education believes the changes to the student withdrawal age will have a significant impact on reducing dropout rates. A sample form that can be used to document parental permission is attached.

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Additionally, Section 53 of Public Act 09-06 amended Section 10-186 (d) (2) of the C.G.S., which now states:

*For the school year commencing July 1, 2011, and each school year thereafter, if a child **seventeen years of age** or older voluntarily terminates enrollment in a school district and subsequently seeks readmission, the local or regional board of education for the school district may deny school accommodations to the child for up to ninety school days from the date of such termination, unless the child seeks readmission to the school district not later than ten school days after the termination in which case the board shall provide school accommodations to the child not later than three school days after the child seeks readmission.*

I hope you find this information helpful and encourage you to share this with appropriate staff within your districts.

For additional information or questions, please contact Kim Traverso at 860-807-2057 or kim.traverso@ct.gov.

GAC:kst

cc: Charlene Russell-Tucker, Associate Commissioner
Cheryl Resha, Education Manager
Anne Louise Thompson, Bureau Chief

Attachment

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OPTION TO WITHDRAW
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 _____, born on
Name of Child **Address**

_____ do hereby elect to withdraw my child from public school.
Date of Birth

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

school district has met with me and provided me with information concerning the educational options available in the school system and the community.

ATTESTMENT BY:

Signature of School Counselor **Date**

Or

Signature of School Administrator **Date**

ACKNOWLEDGED BY:

Signature of Parent, Guardian or Other **Date**

*A child **seventeen years of age** or older who voluntarily terminates enrollment in a school district and subsequently seeks readmission, the local or regional board of education for the school district may deny school accommodations to the child for up to ninety school days from the date of such termination. Unless the child seeks readmission to the school district not later than ten school days after the termination in which case the board shall provide school accommodations to the child not later than three school days after the child seeks readmission.*