

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

No. 208

Section: PUPILS

Title: Withdrawal from
School

Adopted: April 27, 1981

Revised: May 30, 2019

208 WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

Purpose

The Board of Education (“the Board) affirms that while statute requires attendance of each student only between the ages six (6) and the day the student turns 17 years old, it is in the best interest of both students and the community that the School District of Philadelphia deliver on the civil right of every child in Philadelphia to an excellent public school education and ensure all children graduate from high school ready to succeed, fully engaged as a citizen of our world.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy,

Compulsory school age - the period of a child's life from the time the child enters school (which may be no later than at the age of 6 years), to the day the student turns 17 years old or graduation from a high school, whichever occurs first.

School-aged student- any child, between 5 and 21 years of age, who is a resident within the school district.

Truant- a school-aged student enrolled in a District school who has accumulated three (3) or more days of unexcused absences.

Parent/legal guardian- Parent/Legal guardians have a family relationship to the child by law, but do not need to be related by blood.

Graduating student- a person who has earned the required number of credits to receive a high school diploma from the School District of Philadelphia.

Authority

The Board directs that whenever a student wishes to withdraw, effort should be made to determine and attempt to resolve the underlying reason for such action and the resources of the District used to assist the student in reaching his/her career goals. No student of compulsory school age shall be permitted to withdraw without the written consent of a parent/legal guardian and other justification.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent is authorized to delegate the development of procedures for withdrawal from school which will including the following:

For truant, school-aged students, staff will follow the Attendance and Truancy Guidelines and protocols to obtain and attempt to resolve the reason for the student's absence from school and refer the student to the appropriate supports and resources prior to withdrawing a student from school.

For students withdrawing to enroll in another Local Education Agency, the parent/legal guardian must withdraw the student in person at the school where the student is enrolled.

For graduating students, counseling services will be available to support the students' transition to post secondary education, career, or the armed forces.

In all cases, students withdrawing from the District must return all district-owned supplies and equipment in the possession of the student before the withdrawal process can be completed.

Legal References

1. Pa School Code: 24 P.S. § 13-1326
2. Pennsylvania Code: 22 §§ 12.1, 11.4
3. Board of Education Policy 204