

**Board Policy
Drop Outs**

Descriptor Code: JQH

~~The Atlanta Board of Education has set forth the following as the definition of a drop-out. A drop-out is a person who enrolled in the Atlanta Public Schools and exited without completing a planned educational program or transferring to another educational system or program.~~

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~~For purposes of this policy, educational programs are public schools, private schools, and home study programs (O.C.G.A. 20-2-690 as amended).~~

The Atlanta Board of Education (ABE) believes that earning a high school diploma is essential to the lifelong success of our students. The ABE strongly encourages students to remain in school through high school graduation due to the negative impact on the students and on society when students leave school without earning diplomas.

However, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.1 (e), an unemancipated minor between the ages of 16 and 18 years who has not completed the requirements for graduation may withdraw from enrollment in school, or "drop out," after the following criteria have been met:

1. The child's parent/legal guardian provides the Principal or designee with written notice of his/her agreement with the child's withdrawal.
2. Upon receiving the parent/legal guardian's written permission to withdraw the child, the Principal or designee shall convene an exit conference with the child and his/her parent/legal guardian within two (2) school days of the receipt of the written notice.
3. During the exit conference, the Principal or designee shall make a reasonable attempt to share with the student and parent/legal guardian:
 - a. The support options available to help the student stay in school.
 - b. The educational options available, including nontraditional programs for completing a regular high school diploma and the opportunity to pursue the General Educational Development (GED) credential.
 - c. The consequences of not having earned a high school diploma, including lower lifetime earnings, fewer jobs for which the student will be qualified, and the inability to avail oneself of higher educational opportunities.
 - d. The procedures for re-enrolling in school if the student wishes to do so in the future.

Eighteen-year-old students and sixteen- and seventeen-year-old emancipated minor students may also withdraw from school. Schools shall make reasonable attempts to notify the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) if the student resides with them and to conduct an exit conference with the student.