

Policy Number:

342.4

Title:

Programs for Children-at-Risk

The School Board shall develop plans to serve children in the District who are identified at-risk. "Children-at-risk" are students who are at-risk of not graduating from high school. All programs developed for children-at-risk shall be designed to:

1. Improve and expand educational opportunities for these children on an individualized basis, through a variety of means;
2. Eliminate systemic barriers that may cause students' success at school to become at-risk;
3. Provide alternative courses, adaptive instructional strategies, and/or program modifications which satisfactorily meet the school district graduation requirements;
4. Encourage parental involvement; and
5. Encourage cooperation with community support service agencies.

Students shall be identified and referred to these programs in accordance with state regulations and guidelines established by the administration. The St. Croix Central School District shall use data for students in grades 5 to 12 to determine which students have the potential for not graduating. A student is considered at risk of not graduating if he/she is a dropout (ceases to attend school, does not attend a public or private district school or home-based private educational program and does not have an acceptable excuse under §118.16 during current and/or prior years until the end of the school year in which they turn 18), or are two or more of the following:

1. Falling 3 or more credits behind the minimum required credits of class cohort in progress toward graduation.
2. Two or more years behind in basic skill levels in mathematics and reading/English based upon summative assessment, consistent with the District's academic standards.
3. Habitually truant (10 or more days of unexcused absences from school in one year).
4. Pregnant or a parent of a least one child.
5. Adjudicated delinquent.
6. Currently (or has previously been) in jail or juvenile detention.

A child with a disability, as defined in §115.76 (5), will have the student's needs addressed in the individualized education program developed pursuant to §115.787, whenever that child is also eligible to be served in a children-at-risk program.

Students shall be identified in accordance with state regulations and guidelines established by the administration. Students will be identified based upon review of data as it becomes available; sources of data may include, but are not limited to, academic achievement, behavioral records, teacher observations, parent observations, previous or current evaluation results, and/or relevant outside agency reports. Individualized plans will be developed describing how the District will meet the student's needs.

Parents shall be notified of their child's identification as a student-at-risk. This communication will include the reasons why the District believes the student may be at-risk of not graduating from high school along with contact information on who to contact to discuss programming options. Parents shall be notified annually on or before September 1 or any time the student is identified as being at-risk.

The St. Croix Central School District will ensure that programs and services for students identified as being at-risk are designed and administered to allow students to meet high school graduation requirements under §118.33. Availability of such programs and/or services is subject to change without prior notice and may not be available at all grade levels.

Special education and related services needs for a child with a disability, will be addressed in the child's individualized education program developed pursuant to §115.787, whenever that child is also eligible to be served in an alternative education program.

If a parent and/or legal guardian disagree with any of the outlined services within their child's plan, they are encouraged to contact their school counselor and/or the District's Special Education and Student Services Director.

The St. Croix Central School District shall not discriminate in programs for children-at-risk on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, color, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, age, homeless status, handicap or disability status.

LEGAL REF: Wisconsin Statutes Sections 115.76(5), 115.787, 118.153, 118.16, 118.15(1)(d), 118.33, 121.02(1)(n)

Policy Adopted: March 21, 2016