

Policy

File Code: 6172.2

Board of Education Brick Township

DISAFFECTED STUDENTS

The Board recognizes the need for the school district to focus attention on pupils who become disaffected with school. These are students who have been discouraged by their school experience. They are, in a sense, defeated learners.

Disaffected students can generally be identified by the following characteristics: poor school attendance; low academic achievement; reluctant participation in learning activities; frequent conflict with classroom and/or school rules; and low self-esteem.

It is critically important that teachers be aware of the attitudes and behavior of their students, particularly as they relate to the above criteria so that effective intervention strategies can be implemented to change negative attitudes and behavior to more positive directions.

Perhaps the best action that the school district can take to prevent disaffection among its students is the offering of a K-12 program which features strategies that are aimed at preventing learning discouragement. Each child needs to experience success in learning in order to continue to want to learn. Encouragement and support should be extended to each child to nurture the notion that learning is possible and that the learner has it within his/her ability to succeed in school and in life.

The following steps are recommended in dealing with disaffected students:

1. Develop and implement a comprehensive attendance policy that reflects the belief that every student should be in school and that the school values attendance;
2. Develop a systematic accounting system for early identification and continuous monitoring of student absences with special attention given to students with chronic absenteeism;
3. Institute incentives for good attendance;
4. Develop and communicate a philosophy that each student is a worthwhile individual deserving of the best the school has to offer;
5. Involve students, particularly those who are at-risk of dropping out, in extra-curricular activities;
6. Provide individual and group counseling for those students who are having difficulty adjusting to their school experience;

POLICY

No. 6172.2

BOARD OF EDUCATION
BRICK TOWNSHIP
Disaffected Students

7. Provide broad-based career education throughout the school program;
8. Develop peer tutoring programs. At-risk students can serve as tutors as well as being tutored by other students;
9. Bring in former dropouts to talk to students and school personnel about choices and consequences;
10. Provide staff development programs for school personnel on how to create positive relations and how to avoid adverse situations between themselves and students;
11. Provide support services for the disaffected students and their families.

Legal Reference: N.J.A.C. 6:8-4.3(a)3vii

Date Adopted:
Date Revised:

Page 2/2