

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF JOHNSON CREEK BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY	POLICY: 342.4
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Students at Risk

The Johnson Creek School District realizes that some students may be at risk of not completing their educational programs which are designed to culminate in the obtaining of a high school diploma. Therefore, the school district will make a concerted effort to identify these students at the earliest possible time and then establish a written plan of intervention in order to prevent premature exit from school. The staff of the Johnson Creek School District shall also continue to monitor and evaluate the Student At-Risk Program to assure its effectiveness in meeting student needs.

A. Definitions of "Children At Risk"

1. LEGAL DEFINITION [Wis. Stats. 118.153(1)(a)]: "Children at risk" means:
 - a. Pupils in grades 5 to 12 who are at risk of not graduating from high school because they are dropouts or are 2 or more of the following:
 - (1) One or more years behind their age group in the number of high school credits attained.
 - (2) Two or more years behind their age group in basic skill levels.
2. LOCAL DEFINITION: The Johnson Creek Schools shall also serve students in its At-Risk Program who are disadvantaged educationally, socially, or economically to the point that they are not being successful in their educational programs and therefore have a significant risk of not completing these programs.

B. Identification of At-Risk Students

The statutory definition of "children at risk" and/or the local definition shall be used to determine whether a plan of intervention is required. Following are indicators of at-risk behavior which are in addition to those specified in Section A of this policy. These indicators may require intervention especially if a minimum of two (2) categories are present in addition to those described in Section A:

- *Discipline problems
- *Substance abuse
- *Economic disadvantage
- *Physical disability or handicap
- *Low self esteem
- *Family dysfunction
- *Family history of children dropping out of schools
- *Family unemployment patterns

- *Lack of goal orientation
- *Lack of positive peer relationships
- *General lack of interest in school

C. Process

1. REFERRAL: The building principal shall coordinate an on-going review of the students attending his/her school to identify those students demonstrating characteristics of being at risk. A student, parent/guardian, or school personnel may initiate a referral to the designated coordinator for At-Risk Students.
2. COORDINATOR FOR AT-RISK STUDENTS: The coordinator shall have up to thirty (30) days in which to review criteria and other information about a referred student. This information may be acquired from interviews of the student, parent(s)/guardian(s), and teachers. If the coordinator finds adequate credence to the reason for the referral, he/she shall schedule a meeting of the Committee for At-Risk Students. Further the coordinator shall evaluate any plan for a student at risk and recommend needed changes. He/she shall maintain the necessary files for each student involved in the At-Risk Program, serve as chairperson of the Committee for At-Risk Students, and prepare reports as requested.
3. COMMITTEE FOR AT-RISK STUDENTS: This committee is responsible for planning a program for each at-risk student. Participants on this committee shall vary but shall include the coordinator, a school counselor, the building principal, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), the student, two (2) of the student's current classroom teachers, the school psychologist, the school social worker, and a special education teacher when appropriate. Meetings of the committee shall be convened at least once each semester for the purpose of evaluating the educational program of the student and modifying it if necessary.
4. PROGRAM DESIGN: The program designed for each at-risk student shall offer the potential for the student to meet graduation standards as required by the State of Wisconsin and the Johnson Creek School District. Students will be provided an opportunity to achieve at his/her grade or age level. Recommendations concerning program design shall be filed with the district administrator prior to implementation of the program. Prior Board of Education approval is required if the program design deviates from graduation standards and requirements as specified in Board policy(s).
5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S): A parent/guardian may request his/her child to be considered for at-risk programming. Also a parent/guardian shall be informed of any referral of his/her child and shall be a member of the Committee for the At-Risk Student. Ultimately, a parent/guardian of a minor student shall have the authority to decide whether the child shall enter any at risk or modified educational program offered. If the child becomes involved in a program for at-risk students, the parent/guardian shall be kept informed of the child's progress on a quarterly basis.

6. **MONITORING:** Monitoring of student progress shall be the responsibility of the coordinator in cooperation with the building principal and an assigned teacher advisor who may also be the case manager for the student. Frequency of monitoring and evaluation is dependent on student needs and type of programming.
7. **RESPONSIBILITIES OF CASE MANAGER:** Upon entry to the At-Risk Program, each student shall be assigned an advisor or case manager. This person may be any member of the staff. The case manager shall guide the student and monitor the program design. Progress and/or problems shall be reported on a regular basis to the coordinator and building principal.

D. Alternative Programs for At-Risk Students

The following programs may be utilized by the district to provide for the needs of at-risk students. This may not necessarily be an all-inclusive listing of programs. Those indicated by an asterisk (*) may require prior approval by the Board of Education.

- Peer tutoring
- Learning resource room
- Career lab with counseling and guidance services
- Jefferson County Human Services resources
- Referral for EEN services
- Student Assistance Program (SAP)
- Wellness program
- *Madison Area Technical College programming
- *Alternative school programming
- Team teaching situations
- *Alternative scheduling requiring credit and/or course adjustments
- *Use of CESA, DPI, college or university, and/or correspondence materials for some credit replacement
- Summer school
- Homework hotline
- Mentoring
- Work experience programming
- Student support services (eg. school psychologist, school social worker, school nurse)
- Remedial instruction (especially in basic skills areas)
- Cooperative and programmed learning approaches
- *Vocational programming

E. Staff and Community Awareness

In cooperation with the elementary and MS/HS principals, a Committee for At-Risk Students (consisting of school professionals) shall arrange for the inservicing of staff members

concerning the needs of and programs for children at risk. Appropriate programs for parents and guardians shall also be provided for the purpose of fostering school attendance and achievement by the students of the Johnson Creek School District.

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