

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Report on Dropouts and Suspensions/Expulsions

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November 18, 1976

## Dropouts

### I. Maine 1975-76 school-year statistical data on student dropouts

#### A. County Data

<u>County</u>	<u>Secondary Enrollment</u>	<u>Secondary Drop-outs</u>	<u>Percentage Rate</u>
Androscoggin	5,963	250	4.2
Aroostook	7,776	258	3.4
Cumberland	13,550	602	4.4
Franklin	1,893	55	2.9
Hancock	2,528	120	4.7
Kennebec	6,987	319	4.6
Knox	1,513	71	4.7
Lincoln	1,337	64	4.8
Oxford	3,823	158	4.1
Penobscot	9,983	486	4.9
Piscataquis	919	37	4.0
Sagadahoc	2,058	124	6.0
Somerset	3,197	166	5.2
Waldo	1,597	72	4.5
Washington	2,004	134	6.7
York	<u>7,763</u>	<u>386</u>	<u>5.0</u>
STATE TOTALS	72,781	3,302	4.5

#### B. Summary

This Department's definition of a Dropout is "a pupil who leaves school for any reason except death before graduation or completion of a program of studies and without transferring to another school."

Data show the range of dropouts by County for the 1975-76 school-year is from 37 students out of a total secondary school population of 919 in Piscataquis to 602 out of a total student population of 13,550 in Cumberland with respective percentages being 4.0 and 4.4. The range of dropouts at first glance could be considered drastic, however, in looking at the total student population it is quite insignificant. The percentages of student dropouts range from a low of 2.9% for Franklin County to a high of 6.7% for Washington County. The 1975-76 overall average percentage for dropouts is 4.5%.

Our most recent data (November 1976) show 136 school districts reporting on the status of positive action committees (as required by recent legislation) with 96 districts having formed committees, 16 districts have not formed committees, and 24 districts are not affected by the law.

SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS

This Department does not have current statistical data for student suspension and expulsion. School Districts will be requested to report this 1976-77 school-year statistics on suspension/expulsion in June of 1977 to this Department. The reported data will include the categories for which students were suspended or expelled.

The following table represents a survey done in 1972-73 by the Children's Defense Fund of the Washington Research Project, Inc. and included one school district, Portland, out of the entire state:

Portland - 1972-73 Survey of School-Age Children Suspended at Least Once

AREA SURVEYED	Number of School Age (6-17) Children Surveyed	Children (6-17) Suspended at Least Once		Children (12-17) Suspended at Least Once	
		Number Suspended	% of all Children Surveyed	Number Suspended	% of all Children Surveyed
MAINE					
Portland Census Tract 11	Total (All White) 196	13	6.6	13	12.7
Portland Census Tract 12	Total (All White) 64	5	7.8	5	14.7
Portland Census Tract 19	Total (All White) 223	2	0.9	2	1.5
Portland- Bayside East Housing Project	Total (All White) 66	2	3.0	2	8.0
Portland Riverton Housing Project	Total 120 Black 3 White 117	8 0 8	6.7 0 6.8	6 - 6	10.0 - 10.0