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**Maine Department of Education
Office of Truancy, Dropout
And Alternative Education**

**Report of the Advisory Committee
on Truancy, Dropout and Alternative
Education**

To the Joint Standing Committee

On

Education and Cultural Affairs

Of the 126th Legislature

March 2014



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0023

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

JAMES E. RIER, JR.
COMMISSIONER

March 31, 2014

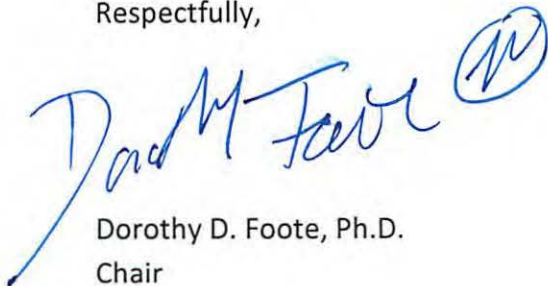
TO: Senator Rebecca Millett, Senate Chair
Representative Bruce MacDonald, House Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

FROM: Dr. Dorothy Foote, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Truancy, Dropout and Alternative Education

On behalf of the Advisory Committee on Truancy, Dropout and Alternative Education, I am submitting the attached report pertaining to the areas of truancy, dropout and alternative education highlighting data from the 2013-2013 academic school year and providing an overview of the work of the Truancy, Dropout and Alternative Education Committee for 2014. This report was developed and is being submitted to you pursuant to 20-A MRSA section 5152.

We are available to answer any questions you may have about this report, in person or in writing. Please contact Jacinda Goodwin at Jacinda.goodwin@maine.gov or 207-624-6637 for additional information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Dorothy D. Foote' with a circular flourish at the end.

Dorothy D. Foote, Ph.D.
Chair

“The mission of the Truancy, Dropout, and Alternative Education Advisory Committee is to advise the Commissioner on the development and implementation of state and local policies and programs that are needed to deal effectively with the incidence of truancy and dropouts in state schools.”

Legislative History:

The Office of Truancy, Dropout, and Alternative Education was established by the 112th Legislature in 1986. The Legislature also established a fifteen-member Advisory Committee “reflecting the range of individuals and public and private institutions which are involved or interested in the problem and its solution.” The Legislature’s interest in these areas is expressed by the requirements that the Advisory Committee “report annually by February 1st to the joint Standing Committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education” (20-A MRSA, Section 5151 and 5152).

Members of the Truancy, Dropout, and Alternative Education Advisory Committee are appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Education for a two year term.

Member’s Name	Position
Deb Chase University of Maine at Farmington	OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO THE COMMISSIONER FEELS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS
Anna Black Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services	REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Patricia Spilecki- Co Chair Lewiston High School	REPRESENTATIVE OF TEACHERS
Dr. Dorothy Foote – Chair Wayfinder Schools	REPRESENTATIVE OF ADMINISTRATORS FROM PRIVATE SCHOOLS INVOLVED IN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION
Kathryn McGloin Juvenile Justice Advisory Group – Department of Corrections	REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
Jim Hodgkin RSU 4 Superintendent	REPRESENTATIVE OF SUPERINTENDENTS
Sarah Ricker Wiscasset High School	REPRESENTATIVE OF A LOCAL POSITIVE ACTION COMMITTEE ON TRUANCY, DROPOUT AND ALTERNATIVE
Dr. Ross Greene Lives in the Balance	REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY
Martin Mackey REAL School	REPRESENTATIVE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Advisory Committee Goals: The Goals for the Advisory Committee in 2014 include a restructuring and reorganizing of the TDAE’s membership and role as the Commissioner’s Advisory Council. The Advisory Council will work with the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network and the US Department of Education on the Rural Dropout Prevention Project over the next two years to conduct a needs assessment and develop supports and resources for the Maine Department of Education and local schools to support their dropout prevention efforts. Additionally, data will be collected pertaining to dropout committees in schools for accountability purposes and to aide in the development of plans to help school dropout prevention committees and to galvanize and reenergize efforts. The Advisory Committee will collaborate with other state agencies and organizations that are also devoted to helping youth at risk for a variety of adverse outcomes (including dropping out and truancy) so as to minimize

redundancy of effort and to ensure that efforts to reduce these outcomes are coordinated, cohesive, concise, and clear.

Truancy:

Under 20-MRSA, Section 5051-A, a student is truant if the student has completed grade 6 and has the equivalent of 10 full days of unexcused absences or 7 consecutive school days of unexcused absences during a school year OR is at least 7 years of age and has not completed grade 6 and has the equivalent of 7 full days of unexcused absences or 5 consecutive school days of unexcused absences during a school year. The Office of Truancy, Dropout and Alternative Education has responded to school administrative units, parents, case managers, law enforcement, providing technical assistance around truancy issues. Currently, there is no funding coming from the Maine Department of Education to the local schools for specific truancy/dropout prevention programs. In comparison to the 2012-2013 figures the truant report for 2011-2012 totaled 2104 cases, 2010-2011 totaled 1570 cases, 2009-10 totaled 1350 cases, 2008-09 totaled 1409 cases, 2007-08 totaled 1484, and 2006-07 totaled 2319 cases.

Truancy Report for 2012-2013 Total Number of Incidents 2377

Truancy Level	Gender	Grades K-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12	Total
Identified but not resolved	F	122	183	245	550
Identified but not resolved	M	102	255	277	634
Total Identified but not resolved		224	438	522	1184
Resolved by informal administrative action	F	80	84	68	232
Resolved by informal administrative action	M	63	90	104	257
Total Resolved by informal administrative action		143	174	172	489
Official Parent Notification (MRSA 20A 5051A 2C)	F	73	115	214	402
Official Parent Notification (MRSA 20A 5051A 2C)	M	89	133	201	423
Total Official Parent Notification (MRSA 20A 5051A 2C)		162	248	415	825
Parents referred to the District Attorney	F	1	3	1	5
Parents referred to the District Attorney	M	0	0	0	0
Total Parents referred to the District Attorney		1	3	1	5
Pending Court action	F	0	0	0	0
Pending Court action	M	0	0	1	1
Total Pending Court action		0	0	1	1
Resolved	F	45	14	73	132
Resolved	M	49	21	73	143
Total Resolved		94	35	146	275
	Total	551	783	1043	2377

Project IMPACT: Reintegration of Youth

In 2001, LD 1306 passed by the Legislature authorized Reintegration Teams. Revisions to the Department of Education and Department of Corrections agreement were initiated in 2001 and were finalized in 2004; reviewed again and updated in 2009-2010. The agreement spells out the roles and responsibilities of the two departments to transition youth in and out of the correctional facilities. Title 20-A, Section 1055 Superintendents; requires the development of reintegration teams to ensure the transitioning of students from the youth development centers back to school. The section outlines that superintendents are to convene teams to carry out reintegration planning upon receipt of information from the Department of Corrections, team member participation is spelled out, and confidentiality of criminal justice information regarding juveniles is to be ensured. **Project Impact is overseen by DOE staff person Jonathan Braff. The data for 2012-2013 shows:**

# of schools participating in Reintegration planning in 2011	Long Creek 3	Mountain View 19
# of school Reintegration Team Meetings in 2011	14	19
Youth upon release/discharge returning to Public School	9	10
Youth attending Adult Ed	2	11
Youth attending college	8	1
Youth entering workforce	11	15
Residents receiving Diploma/GED	25	11
Students attending college while in residence	36	0
Residence released	60	43

Dropout:

Under 20-A MRSA, Section 5054 a "dropout" means any person who has withdrawn for any reason except death or been expelled from school before graduation or completion of a program of studies and who has not enrolled in another educational institution or program. The Maine Department of Education reports students grade 7 to 12 who have dropped out of school to the United States Department of Education annually. The dropout rate for Maine in for 2012-2013 is 2.65% compared to 3.23% in 2011-2012 and 3.16% in 2010-2011; 3.46% in 2009-2010 and 3.42% in 2008-2009. For detailed information about dropout data please see the following Maine DOE website:

<http://www.maine.gov/education/gradrates/gradrates.html>

Adult Education Students: *Secondary School-aged Adult Education Student*

For secondary-school aged persons, adult education programs are one alternative way to earn high school completion. This alternative becomes available to persons over 17 who have withdrawn from school.

Adult High School Diploma programs are central to the mission and tradition of Maine Adult Education. Governed by state regulations, but implemented locally under local school board policy and direction, the program has two components: Adult High School Diploma and the Tests of General Educational Development (GED) which as of January 2014 is referred to as the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET).

Adult High School Diploma Programs are secondary educational offerings which lead to a high school diploma awarded by the local district. Participation is governed by local school board policies. The GED/HiSET option is awarded to anyone 18 years old or older plus 17 year olds who have been out of school for at least one year and have a documented need for the credential.

For 2012 the data received from Adult Education Director Gail Senese shows that 2318 students age 16 to 24 years old tested for their GED and that for 2012-2013, 238 students ages 16 to 24 received classroom instruction in high school diploma/GED from Adult Education

Suspensions and Expulsions:

During the 2013-2013 school year, 7,092 student suspensions from schools occurred. This includes some students who were suspended more than once. Additionally, 62 students were expelled from school and of those 62 students, 46 students returned to school.