

**257.39 Definitions — potential dropouts and returning dropouts.**

As used in [this chapter](#):

1. “*Potential dropouts*” are resident pupils who are enrolled in a public or nonpublic school who demonstrate poor school adjustment as indicated by two or more of the following:

- a. High rate of absenteeism, truancy, or frequent tardiness.
- b. Limited or no extracurricular participation or lack of identification with school, including but not limited to expressed feelings of not belonging.
- c. Poor grades, including but not limited to failing in one or more school subjects or grade levels.
- d. Low achievement scores in reading or mathematics which reflect achievement at two years or more below grade level.
- e. Children in grades kindergarten through three who meet the definition of at-risk children adopted by the department of education.

2. “*Returning dropouts*” are resident pupils who have been enrolled in a public or nonpublic school in any of grades seven through twelve who withdrew from school for a reason other than transfer to another school or school district and who subsequently enrolled in a public school in the district.

[89 Acts, ch 135, §39](#); [2020 Acts, ch 1062, §38](#)

Referred to in [§257.10](#), [257.11](#), [282.27](#)