



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

June 29, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey *EGM*
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Student Exit Interview
Senate Bill 334, Alabama Act 2009-564

Many students experienced increased opportunities to be employed during the challenges of COVID and may decide to detour from the traditional K-12 pathway. Summertime exemplifies a period when parents and students decide to embrace non-traditional pathways and to visit local schools to withdraw students. As we work diligently on the opportunities and process to support student success, a conversation or Exit Interview with the parent/student allows for an awareness of alternative/non-traditional pathways to be shared and explored.

In an attempt to decrease the number of students who drop out of school and to increase the age of students that are required to attend public school, the Alabama Legislature passed Senate Bill 334, Alabama Act 2009-564. This law amends several sections of the *Code of Alabama, 1975*, regarding mandatory school attendance and also adds Section 16-28-3.1 as follows:

1. Written consent is granted by the child's parent or legal guardian.
2. An exit interview is conducted with the student and the student's parent and or legal guardian.

The student who withdraws from school prior to receiving a diploma shall be provided information regarding the detrimental impacts and negative effects of early withdrawal from school. Additionally, information including available training, enrollment in the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Adult Education and Skills Training programs through its non-traditional high school diploma or high school equivalency options such as the General Educational Development (GED) diploma, and employment programs shall be provided where available. Other possible options and available community resources or programs should also be provided.

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City and County Superintendents of Education
Page 2
June 29, 2022

The Student Exit Interview Process has demonstrated a positive impact on hundreds of Alabama students. This document may be customized for your local education agency and located on our website at www.alabamaachieves.org by clicking on Division Offices/Support Services/Prevention and Support Section. Click the Student Exit Interview link for 2022 to download the document. Should a student fail to return to school without completing the official withdrawal process, attempts to contact the student and his/her parent or guardian should be documented on the Student Exit Interview form.

Should you have questions regarding the Student Exit Interview process or other aspects of the Senate Bill 334, Alabama Act 2009-564, please contact Dr. Kay Atchison Warfield by email at kaw@alsde.edu or Mrs. Shenitra Dees by email at shenitra.dees@alsde.edu or by telephone at 334-694-4717.

EGM/KAW/SB

cc: Guidance Counselors
Counseling Coordinators
Grades 9-12 High School Principals
Mental Health Service Coordinators

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