

5-Q-A: SECTION 23a DROPOUT RECOVERY PROGRAM

Section 23a of the State School Aid Act (MCL 388.1623a) provides the authority to eligible districts operating a dropout recovery program to claim one twelfth (1/12) of a full-time equated (FTE) for each month that an eligible pupil was enrolled in the program and was in full attendance, as described in the Act. Only those pupils who meet the requirements as outlined in Section 6(4)(dd) and Section 23a of the State School Aid Act (MCL 388.1606 and MCL 388.1623a) may be claimed for Section 23a funding.

A) Requirement for Counting in Membership

- 1) Pursuant to Section 1606(4)(dd), the pupil shall be counted as 1/12 of a full-time equated membership for each month that the district operating the program reports that the pupil was enrolled in the dropout recovery program and was in full attendance.
- 2) If the counting provisions set forth in Section 1606(4)(dd) result in a pupil being counted as more than 1.0 FTE in a fiscal year, the payment made for the pupil under Section 22a of the State School Aid Act (MCL 388.1622a) and Section 22b of the State School Aid Act (MCL 388.1622b) shall not be based on more than 1.0 FTE for that pupil, and any portion of an FTE for that pupil that exceeds 1.0 shall instead be paid under Section 25f of the State School Aid Act (MCL 388.1625f).
- 3) The pupil was in full attendance for a month.
- 4) The dropout recovery program only enrolls eligible pupils as described in (5) below.
- 5) The pupil meets at least one of the following criteria:
 - a. The pupil has been expelled from school under the mandatory expulsion provisions in Section 1311 or Section 1311a of the Revised School Code (MCL 380.1311 and MCL 380.1311a).
 - b. The pupil has been suspended or expelled from school under a local policy.
 - c. The pupil is referred by a court.
 - d. The pupil is pregnant or is a parent.
 - e. The pupil was previously a dropout.
 - f. The pupil is determined by the district to be at risk of dropping out.
- 6) The dropout recovery program provides an advocate. All of the following apply to the advocate.
 - a. An advocate may serve in that role for more than 1 pupil but no more than 50 pupils.
 - b. An advocate may be employed by the district or may be provided by an education management organization that is partnering with the district.
 - c. Before an individual is assigned to be an advocate for a pupil in the dropout recovery program, the district shall comply with Sections 1230 and 1230a of the Revised School Code (MCL 380.1230 and MCL 380.1230a) with respect to that individual.
- 7) The dropout recovery program develops a written personalized learning plan that is in place on or before the first school day of the month for the first month the pupil participates in the program.
- 8) The dropout recovery program monitors the pupil's progress against the written learning plan.

- 9) The dropout recovery program requires each pupil to make satisfactory monthly progress as defined by the district consistent with subsection C below.
- 10) The dropout recovery program reports the pupil's progress results to the partner district at least monthly.
- 11) The dropout recovery program may be operated on or off a district school campus but may be operated using distance learning online only if the program provides a computer and Internet access for each eligible pupil participating in the program.
- 12) The dropout recovery program is operated throughout the entire calendar year (i.e., it is a 12-month program).
- 13) If the district partners with an education management organization for the program, the education management organization has a dropout recovery program partnership relationship with at least 1 other district.

B) Reporting Membership

The Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) collects and reports data about Michigan's K-12 public schools. Refer to the CEPI website at <http://www.michigan.gov/cepi> for information pertaining to the reporting process for Dropout Recovery Programs, or contact CEPI customer service with questions at CEPI@michigan.gov or (517) 335-0505, option 3.

Details regarding the process for reporting the membership through Student Record Maintenance (SRM) are located in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS) "Collection Details Manual" in the "Section 23a Component" section.

C) Definitions

Advocate - an adult available to meet in person with assigned pupils, as needed, to conduct social interventions, to proctor final examinations, and to provide academic and social support.

Education management organization - a private provider that operates 1 or more other dropout recovery programs that meet the requirements of Section 1623a in partnership with 1 or more districts.

Full attendance – compliance with both of the following: 1) a personalized learning plan is in place on or before the first school day of the month for the first month the pupil participates in the program and 2) the pupil meets the district's definition under Section 1623a of satisfactory monthly progress for that month or, if the pupil does not meet that definition of satisfactory monthly progress for that month, the pupil did meet that definition in the immediately preceding month and appropriate interventions are implemented within 10 school days after it is determined that the pupil does not meet that definition.

Satisfactory monthly progress - an amount of progress that is measurable on a monthly basis and that, if continued for a full 12 months, would result in the same amount of academic credit being awarded to the pupil as would be awarded to a general education pupil completing a full school year. Satisfactory monthly progress may include a lesser-required amount of progress for the first 2 months a pupil participates in the program.

Written learning plan - a written plan developed in conjunction with the advocate that includes the plan start and end dates, courses to be taken, credit to be earned for each course, teacher of record for each course, and advocate's name and contact information.

D) Statutory and Other References

State School Aid Act:
MCL 388.1606

Revised School Code:
MCL 380.1311

MCL 388.1622a	MCL 380.1311a
MCL 388.1622b	MCL 380.1230
MCL 388.1623a	MCL 380.1230a
MCL 388.1625f	
MCL 388.1701	