



# Dropout Prevention & Recovery Program

Merit Preparatory Academy

## 1. Purpose

Merit Preparatory Academy recognizes that dropout prevention programs provide at-risk students with specific supports such as mentoring, counseling, college preparation and supplemental academic services that can provide a pathway to help them achieve a high school diploma (53G-9-802 & R277-606).

## 2. Definitions

2.1 "Attainment goal" has the same meaning as that term is defined in Utah Code Section 53G-9-801, which may include: A high school diploma; Utah High School Completion Diploma, as defined in State Board of Education rule; an Adult Education Secondary Diploma, as defined in State Board of Education rule; or a certificate of completion if a student qualifies for Special Education Services.

2.2 "Average daily membership" (ADM) means a full-day equivalent pupil.

2.3 "Cohort" means a group of students, defined by the year in which the group enters grade 9.

2.4 "Designated student" means a student who has withdrawn from a secondary school prior to earning a diploma or who was dropped from average daily membership and whose cohort has not yet graduated, or is at risk as defined by Utah Code Section 53G-9-801.

2.5 "Risk factors" means low academic performance, as measured by grades, test scores, or course failure, or poor behavior, as measured by office disciplinary referrals, suspensions, or expulsions, and absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused absences, and including days tardy and truant.

## 3. Procedure

3.1 Merit Preparatory Academy shall designate the Registrar as the coordinator to collect and disseminate data regarding dropouts.

3.2 MPA shall identify all students who have withdrawn from school before earning a diploma, who have been dropped from average daily membership, and who's graduating class (when entering grade 9) has not yet graduated.

3.3 MPA shall provide dropout prevention and recovery services to designated students by:

3.3.1 Engaging with or attempting to engage with designated students;

3.3.2 Consulting with designated students and developing a support plan to identify barriers to regular school attendance, an attainment goal and means for achieving the attainment goal (R277-606).

3.3.3 Monitoring a designated student's progress toward reaching the designated student's attainment goal; and

3.3.4 Providing tiered interventions and support plans for a designated student who is not making progress toward reaching the student's attainment goal.

3.4 MPA shall offer dropout prevention and recovery services throughout the calendar year to students who become designated students while enrolled within MPA.

#### 4. Enrollment Options

4.1 MPA shall offer enrollment options for a designated student that are tailored to the designated student's learning plan and can include the following:

4.1.1 Enrollment in MPA's regular academic program; or

4.1.2 Modified schedule; or

4.1.3. Information for enrolling in a state-approved 3rd party program at the cost of the student. where the party communicates their plan, progress, and documentation with MPA. Students with an IEP will work with their caseholder and the SPED Coordinator on recovery plans

See [Merit's Credit Recovery Procedure](#)

#### 5. Reporting

5.1 If requested, the Registrar shall submit a report to the state on dropout prevention and recovery services, including:

5.1.1 The total number of designated students at MPA;

5.1.2 The methods MPA uses to engage with or attempt to recover designated students under this policy; and

5.1.3 The number of designated students who reach the designated students' attainment goals.

5.1.4 MPA shall maintain documentation to comply with the requirements of Utah Code Section 53G-9-802 and Board Rule R277-606.

5.1.5 The report shall be made available to the MPA Board of Trustees upon request.

Board Approved: 3/21/23