

What is Push Out?

Push Out happens when your school tries to make you withdraw. They may not tell you that:

- you have the right to stay in school
- you have the right to get extra help so you can do better in school

You have the right to stay in school if you:

1. are under 21
2. have not been expelled
3. don't have a high school diploma

You can decide to withdraw from school if you:

- are 17 and your parent or guardian agrees
- are 18 or older



What if my school says I have to go to an alternative school?

Alternative schools offer different things than regular school. Some alternative schools are in a separate building from the regular school. Some are in the same building, but you have to stay in special classrooms or go to school at night. Many offer fewer classes, services and activities than regular school.

Unless you are expelled, your school cannot force you to go to an alternative school.

You and your parent or guardian get to decide if an alternative school is right for you.

Before you decide, visit the alternative school. Ask:

- What hours would I go to school?
- How many students are in each class?
- Can I still get extra help or Special Ed if I need it?
- Can I take the same classes I take now?
- Can I join sports or band?
- When can I go back to my regular school?

What should I do if my school tells me that I have to go to Adult Education?

Your school cannot force you to withdraw and go to Adult Ed (GED/Credit Diploma).

You have the right to go to school until you graduate or turn 21. If you are a special education student, you have the right to go school until you graduate or until the end of the school year when you turn 21. You and your parent or guardian get to decide if Adult Ed would help you.

Before you decide, ask for more help at your regular school. Adult Ed usually does not offer extra help if you need it. If you miss too many days, you will lose your credits and have to start all over the next year.

If you are over 16 and expelled, the school can place you in Adult Ed during your expulsion, but you do not have to withdraw or sign out to do this. You can go back to your regular school once your expulsion is over.

To find out more about Adult Ed, call the local Adult Education office. Ask:

- What days would I have class?
- What hours would I go to school?
- How many students are in a class?
- If I need extra help, how would I get it?
- How many students graduate from your program?
- Can I visit the classroom to see what it's like?

Find the number for Adult Education on your local Board of Education website, the State Department of Education website (sde.ct.gov) or ask at your school.



What if I'm failing and the school asks me to leave?

What if the school says they're going to withdraw me because I missed too much school?

You have the right to get help in school. Your school cannot force you to withdraw even if you are failing or have missed a lot of school.

If the school asks you to leave because you are failing, do this:

- Get your parent or guardian to write a letter to the school to ask for a Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting to talk about extra help you need. Make sure the letter is dated and keep a copy. You can write this letter yourself if you are 18 or older.
- Get help for the PPT meeting from a lawyer or advocate.
- Go to the PPT meeting with your parent or guardian and tell the school what extra help you need.

If you need extra help to do better in school, the school may have to give you:

- Tutoring after school and weekends
- Special Education services
- Help to learn or improve your English



If I don't withdraw, my school says I will be expelled. What should I do?

You do not have to withdraw just because the school threatens to expel you.

- Before they can expel you, the school must hold an Expulsion Hearing.
- You have the right to go to the hearing and fight the expulsion.
- You can bring a lawyer or advocate to help you.
- You and your parent or guardian can decide if it is better to withdraw or to fight the expulsion, based on the facts of your case.

If the school schedules an Expulsion Hearing, call the Statewide Legal Service Pro Bono Expulsion Project right away at (800) 453-3320. They may be able to find a lawyer to help you for free.

If you are expelled

You usually have the right to Alternative Education. This means you can go to some kind of school even if you can't go to your regular school.

If you are over 16 and expelled

Adult Ed may be the only place you can go during your expulsion. You do not have to withdraw or sign out to do this. When your expulsion is over, you can go back to your regular school.

What if I already withdrew?

If you withdrew from school, the law gives you 10 school days to change your mind.

After 10 school days, the school can wait up to 90 school days after the date you withdrew to let you back in. Always ask to get back in, because the school can let you come back sooner if they want to.

If you already withdrew and you think it was unfair, call one of the agencies on the back of this brochure. You may have the right to get back into school right away.



Need Help?

For information about your legal rights

- Go to speakupteens.org and click on Rights & Resources
- Call us at 860-570-5327 or 203-335-0719
- Statewide Legal Services Pro Bono Expulsion Project 800-453-3320
- Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center 800-445-2722



The information in this brochure is intended as reference only and should not be interpreted as legal advice in an individual case. If you need specific information about the law, please call us at 860-570-5327 or 203-335-0719.

Center for Children's Advocacy
kidscounsel.org and speakupteens.org

**Is your school trying to
Force You Out?**

Push Out