Iowa Code 257.39: Definition of Returning and Potential Dropouts for Modified Allowable Growth Funding

"Potential dropouts" means 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:

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

"Returning dropouts" means 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.

"Dropout" means a school-age student who is served by a public school district and enrolled in any of grades seven through twelve and who does not attend school or withdraws from school for a reason other than death or transfer to another approved school or school district or has been expelled with no option to return.

Sample Rubric for Identification of Returning and Potential Dropouts (parameters are all defined by the district):

#1 Priority (7-12)	**#2 Priority (K-12) – Must Meet Criteria in a Minimum of 2 Columns**				**K-3 Only**
Returning Dropouts	Attendance	Grades/Credits	Proficiency	No Connection	At Risk
• Grades 7 – 12 Dropped, Reenrolling in CSD HS/Program	• More than ____days • ____ days in a core class • 10+ days in a semester	• Failing any courses/Failing Core Courses • Credit Deficient • Overaged/Undercredited • Failing Reading/Math in 6th grade • Not promoted in MS/JH	• Reading < 41%ile • Math < 41%ile • Reading & Math < 41%ile • (OR 2.0 GE difference)	• Actual Statements of no connection • No evidence of school/comm. Connect • DOR (## per_____) • ISS/OSS • Expulsion	• Defined as at risk (meets 2 under IAC ch12.2) • Meets 1 of 4 criteria as potential drop in addition to 2 stated above

Examples show:

#1 Priority: Recovering Dropouts - the recovery, re-entry and re-engagement of those who have already dropped out.

#2 Priority: To retain those students most at risk of dropping out of school - To prioritize students to be served by identifying students who meet two or more of the four criteria (orange). Two or more of five criteria if K – 3rd grade.

Students in K – 3rd grade need immediate attention/intervention if identified as a student at risk, but would need to meet 2 at risk criteria (IAC 281-12.2) and at least one criterion from the potential dropout columns to be considered a potential dropout. This population has alternate funding sources, such as Early Intervening Services, at-risk early intervention, Title, at risk supplemental weighted enrollment. If a student only meets 1 criteria of a potential dropout, s/he would certainly be at risk, but would not meet the criteria for a potential dropout as defined by Iowa Code. Districts would want to make sure these students are being monitored for progress.