



## **Texas Education Data Standards (TEDS)**

## **Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS)**

### **Appendix 8.D PEIMS Leaver Reason Codes & Documentation Requirements**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Leaver Reason Codes and Documentation Requirements .....	1
General Documentation Requirements .....	1
Signatures on Documentation .....	2
Evaluation of Documentation .....	2
Completeness of Documentation .....	2
Changing Leaver-Reason-Codes.....	2
Documentation Requirements by LEAVER-REASON-CODE .....	3
Graduated or Received an Out-Of-State GED .....	3
Moved to Other Educational Setting.....	4
Withdrawn by School District.....	6
Other Reasons .....	7

## Leaver Reason Codes and Documentation Requirements

The attached table provides expanded definitions and specific documentation guidelines for each of the leaver reason codes listed in Code Table C162 of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) PEIMS Data Standards. The table is organized into the following broad categories of leavers:

- completed high school or General Educational Development (GED) program
- moved to other educational setting
- withdrawn by school district
- other

Leaver records are not submitted for students who enroll in other Texas public school districts or charters and students who obtain GED certificates at Texas examination sites by August 31. Students who move to other Texas public school districts are considered movers, not leavers. Documentation as described in Appendix D is not required for movers; districts may wish to develop local policy on documentation for movers. The Person Identification Database (PID) Enrollment Tracking (PET) may be used to establish tentative local documentation that students are movers. The final determination of whether students are movers will be made by TEA.

Local policy in this appendix refers to a district or charter's leaver policies and procedures.

## General Documentation Requirements

Districts must document the withdrawal of students and maintain on file the appropriate paperwork associated with student withdrawals. Documentation is required for all leaver reason codes. Documentation requirements for leaver codes are provided in the Documentation Requirements by LEAVER-REASON-CODE section.

Documentation supporting use of a leaver reason code must exist in the district at the time the leaver data are submitted, i.e., no later than the PEIMS Submission 1 January resubmission date.

Timelines for establishing leaver reasons and obtaining documentation:

### ***Students who leave during the school year.***

For students who leave during the school year, leaver reasons apply at the time of withdrawal, and documentation should be obtained at that time. For example, for students who are withdrawn by Child Protective Services (CPS), LEAVER-REASON-CODE 66, documentation would be obtained when the student is removed.

### ***Students who fail to return in the fall.***

For students who fail to return the following fall, leaver reasons apply on the first day of school or its approximation, the school-start window. The school-start window is the period of time between the first day of school and the last Friday in September. Districts should use the LEAVER-REASON-CODE that most appropriately describes the student's whereabouts during the school-start window. For example, to use LEAVER-REASON-CODE 60 student withdrew from/left school for home schooling, a district would establish that a student was being home schooled at some point during the school-start window. The district could obtain the documentation to support the leaver code at any time up until the PEIMS Submission 1 resubmission date.

### ***Students who were attending and were withdrawn under LEAVER-REASON-CODE 83 when the district discovered that the student was not entitled to public school enrollment in the district.***

LEAVER-REASON-CODE 83, not entitled to public school enrollment in the district, applies to students who are attending and are withdrawn by the district because the district discovers, when verifying enrollment information, that the student was not entitled to enrollment in the district because the student was not a resident of the district or was not entitled under other provisions of TEC §25.001 or as a transfer student. It is not for a student who was a resident and stops attending because he/she has moved out of the district.

This code is also used for those rare situations in which the student has not met the requirements under TEC §38.001 or a corresponding rule of the Texas Department of State Health Services for immunization, provisional

enrollment, or exemption. Leaver reasons for LEAVER-REASON-CODE 83 apply at the time of withdrawal and documentation showing due process supporting the withdrawal should be obtained at that time.

## Signatures on Documentation

Documentation must be signed and dated by an authorized representative of the district. The district should have a written policy stating who can act as an authorized representative for purposes of signing withdrawal forms and other leaver reason documentation.

Withdrawal documentation should also be signed for the student by a:

- parent, or
- guardian, or
- responsible adult as recorded in school records, such as a foster parent or a probation officer, or
- qualified student. A qualified student is one who, at the time he/she stops attending school:
  - is married, or
  - is 18 years or older, or
  - has established a residence separate and apart from the student's parent, guardian, or other person having lawful control of the student

An original signature is not required on withdrawal forms received in the district by fax. Withdrawal forms received by e-mail do not need to be signed by the parent/guardian or qualified student. Written documentation of oral statements made in person or by telephone by the parent/guardian or qualified student is acceptable documentation in some situations if it is signed and dated by the district representative.

## Evaluation of Documentation

Merits of leaver documentation are assessed at the time the documentation is requested during a data inquiry investigation. Determination of the acceptability of documentation is made by the professional staff conducting the investigation. These guidelines describe the most common types of documentation the investigator would expect to find supporting use of each leaver reason code. Other documentation that represents good business practice and shows a good faith effort on the part of the district to properly report leaver status will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

## Completeness of Documentation

Withdrawal documentation shall be considered incomplete without a date, signature(s), and destination. Documentation will not be deemed insufficient when information is missing because the parent or parents refuse to provide information requested by the district. A district should document at the time of the conversation that the information was requested, and the parent refused to provide it. Appropriate documentation of a parent refusal to provide information includes the date, content of conversation, name of person with whom the conversation was conducted, and the signature of the school official verifying the conversation.

## Changing Leaver-Reason-Codes

Once a district meets the documentation standard that supports the leaver reason code used, the district is not required to obtain additional information on the student. Local policy will determine if an existing leaver reason code is updated for a student when additional information is received. The policy should be clearly stated in the district's published guidelines on leaver procedures. For example, if a district assigned LEAVER-REASON-CODE 60 *student withdrew from/left school for home schooling* for a student and later received a request for transcript information from a private school for the same student, the district may change the LEAVER-REASON-CODE to 81 *enroll in a Texas private school* but is not obligated to.

## Documentation Requirements by LEAVER-REASON-CODE

In addition to general documentation requirements, requirements specific to leaver reason codes also apply. Following are the specific documentation requirements by leaver reason code. They are grouped into four major categories: graduated or received an out-of-state GED, moved to other educational setting, withdrawn by school district, and other reasons. School leavers with this LEAVER-REASON-CODE are counted as dropouts for state accountability purposes: code 98. School leavers with this LEAVER-REASON-CODE are counted as dropouts for federal accountability purposes: codes 88, 89, 98. These designations are provided for information purposes only. They are not the final or comprehensive description of the definitions used for dropout and completion processing. For more information please see the *Secondary School Completion and Dropouts in Texas Public Schools*.

### Graduated or Received an Out-Of-State GED

Code	Translation
01	<p><b>Student graduated from a campus in this district or charter</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> Use for students who meet all high school graduation requirements (which includes passing the state assessments required for graduation) at any time during the prior school year, including the summer (through August 31) following the close of the prior year.</p> <p>To graduate, a student must satisfy the requirements under 19 TAC Chapter 74, Subchapter B. Special education students must satisfy requirements under 19 TAC §89.1070. Students who complete all course requirements for graduation in one school year but do not pass the state assessments required for graduation until a later year, are reported as graduates in the school year in which the state assessments are passed, and the diploma is issued.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Transcript showing sufficient credits, successful completion of the state assessments (including testing dates) required for graduation, graduation seal, school official signature, and date of completion.</p>
85	<p><b>Student graduated outside Texas before entering a Texas public school, entered a Texas public school, and left again</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> This code may be used for students who graduated in another state or country before entering Texas public schools. This code may also be used for students who graduated from Texhoma High School, Texhoma, Oklahoma.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Transcript showing sufficient credits, date, and school official signature, and a diploma with a graduation seal.</p>
86	<p><b>Student completed the GED outside Texas</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> This code may be used for students who earned GED certificates outside Texas, including students living in Texas and earning GED certificates online from a testing company in another state, before enrolling or after leaving Texas public schools.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Acceptable documentation is a copy of the GED certificate or some other written document provided by the testing company showing completion of the GED. Written documentation from the testing company must include the date of GED completion, location, address, and contact information of the company.</p>
90	<p><b>Student graduated from another state under provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> Per TEC §162.002, student lives in the household of an active-duty military serviceperson, transferred into Texas public schools at the beginning of or during his or her senior year, did not meet requirements to graduate from Texas public schools, did meet requirements to graduate from a school in the sending state, and, under provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, graduated from a school or district in the sending state.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Transcript showing sufficient credits, date, and school official signature, or a diploma with a graduation seal</p>

## Moved to Other Educational Setting

Code	Translation
24	<p><b>Student entered college and is working towards an Associate's or Bachelor's degree</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> This code is for students who leave secondary school to enter college early. It should be used for students who are enrolled full-time (at least 9 credit hours per semester). This code is also for students who leave school to enter a dual-credit program established by the Texas Legislature at the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science at the University of North Texas, the Texas Academy of Leadership in the Humanities at Lamar University, the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science at the University of Texas at Brownsville, and the Texas Academy of International Studies at Texas A&amp;M International University.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Documentation of enrollment in a college or university must indicate that the student is enrolled full-time in an academic program. Per federal requirement, it is <u>not</u> permissible for a district to document that, at the time of withdrawal, the student intended to enter a post-secondary educational setting. Beginning with students leaving in the 2011-12 school year, a district must document that the student has actually entered a post-secondary educational setting. One of the following types of documentation is required to verify enrollment:</p> <p><b>Transcript request.</b> Acceptable documentation of enrollment in college is a records request from the college in which the student is enrolled. Telephone requests must be documented in writing, including the date of the call, the name of the college requesting the records, the name of the person making the request, and the name of the person who received the call. Telephone requests should appear on a standardized, district-approved form. The original of the form should be included in the student's permanent file. Documentation of the method of records dissemination also must be included in the student's permanent file (e.g., copy of fax activity log, certified mail receipt, encrypted email receipt confirmation, or postage/mail log with complete address information for requesting school).</p> <p><b>Verification by an authorized representative of the college.</b> A signed letter from the college verifying enrollment is also acceptable documentation. The letter must state the name and location of the college in which the student is enrolled and the date of enrollment. Other acceptable documentation is written documentation of an oral statement by a representative of the college providing the name and location of the college and verifying that the student is enrolled, signed and dated by an authorized representative of the district.</p> <p><b>Verification by the parent/guardian or qualified student.</b> Acceptable documentation includes a letter, signed and dated from the parent, guardian, or qualified student stating that the student has enrolled in college in a program leading to an associate's or bachelor's degree.</p>
60	<p><b>Student is home schooled</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> Student is being home schooled. This code may be used only for a student whose parent/guardian confirms that the student is pursuing, under direct supervision of the parent/guardian, a curriculum designed to meet basic education goals. The district is not required to obtain evidence that the program being provided meets educational standards.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> A district must document that the parent/guardian is home schooling the student. Per federal requirement, it is <u>not</u> permissible for a district to document that, at the time of withdrawal, the student intended to be home schooled. Beginning with students leaving in the 2011-12 school year, the following documentation is required to verify enrollment:</p> <p><b>Verification by the parent/guardian.</b> A letter, signed and dated, from the parent/guardian stating that the student is being home schooled is acceptable documentation. Letters from parents/guardians must indicate the actual date home schooling began.</p>
66	<p><b>Student was removed by Child Protective Services (CPS) and the district has not been informed of the student's current status or enrollment</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> This code applies only to Child Protective Services. Private agencies that provide asylum for students do not have the legal authority to remove students from school.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Acceptable documentation includes due process documentation supporting the</p>

Code	Translation
	withdrawal; a written statement, signed and dated by the CPS officer, including the CPS officer's name and contact information; or written documentation of an oral statement by a CPS representative that the child was removed, including the CPS representative's name, the date of the conversation, and the signature of the school official.
81 82	<p><b>Student enrolled in a private school in Texas</b></p> <p><b>Student enrolled in a public or private school outside of Texas</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> Student is enrolled in a private school in Texas (code 81), the Texas Job Corps Diploma Program (code 81), or a public or private school outside Texas (code 82). Documentation of actual enrollment is required. This code is also used when a student moves from the district without withdrawing but the district receives a records request.</p> <p>If the student enrolls in another school in the district or another public school district in Texas, a leaver record is not submitted.</p> <p>If the district did not assign code 81 or code 82 when the student stopped attending, the district can change the original code assigned to the student when the records request or communication from the parent/guardian or qualified student is received. If the original withdrawal date for the student is later than the date the student enrolled in the other school, the withdrawal date must be changed and all attendance accounting records affected by this change must be updated.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Per federal requirement, it is <u>not</u> permissible for a district to document that, at the time of withdrawal, the student intended to enter another educational setting. Beginning with students leaving in the 2011-12 school year, a district must document that the student has actually enrolled in a private school in Texas, the Texas Job Corps Diploma Program, or a private or public school outside Texas. One of the following types of documentation is required to verify enrollment:</p> <p><b>Transcript request.</b> Acceptable documentation of enrollment in another school is a records request from the school in which the student is enrolled. Telephone requests are acceptable, but they must be documented in writing, including the date of the call, the name of the school requesting the records, the name of the person making the request, and the name of the person who received the call. Telephone requests should appear on a standardized, district-approved form. The original of the form should be included in the student's permanent file. Documentation of the method of records dissemination also must be included in the student's permanent file (e.g., copy of fax activity log, certified mail receipt, encrypted email receipt confirmation, or postage/mail log with complete address information for requesting school).</p> <p><b>Verification by the superintendent or authorized campus or district administrator of the receiving district.</b> A signed letter from the receiving school verifying enrollment is acceptable documentation. The letter must state the name and location of the school in which the student is enrolled and the date of enrollment. Other acceptable documentation is written documentation of an oral statement by a representative of the receiving school providing the name and location of and contact information for the school and verifying that the student is enrolled, signed and dated by an authorized campus or district administrator of the district.</p> <p><b>Verification by the parent/guardian or qualified student.</b> Acceptable documentation includes a letter, signed and dated, from the parent/guardian or qualified student stating that the student has enrolled in a private school in Texas or a private or public school outside of Texas leading to the completion of a high school diploma.</p>
87	<p><b>Student withdrew from/left school to enroll in the Texas Tech University ISD High School Diploma Program or the University of Texas at Austin High School Diploma Program</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> Student was withdrawn from school and parent/guardian or qualified student indicated at time of withdrawal that the student has enrolled in the State Board of Education-authorized Texas Tech University ISD High School Diploma Program or the University of Texas at Austin High School Diploma Program.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> The district must receive either a) a records or transcript request from the high school diploma program or b) a letter from the high school diploma program stating that the student is enrolled.</p>



## Withdrawn by School District

Code	Translation
78	<p><b>Student was expelled under the provisions of TEC §37.007 and cannot return to school</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> This code may only be used when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the student was expelled under the provisions of TEC §37.007, and</li> <li>the term of expulsion has not expired <u>or</u> the student's failure to attend school is due to court action.</li> </ul> <p>This code may only be used for a student who was expelled for an offense included in TEC §37.007. This code is not intended for use by districts which assign students to a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP).</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Due process documentation supporting the expulsion.</p>
83	<p><b>Student was attending and was withdrawn from school by the district when the district discovered that the student was not entitled to enrollment in the district because a) the student was not a resident of the district, b) was not entitled under other provisions of TEC §25.001 or as a transfer student, or c) was not entitled to public school enrollment under TEC §38.001 or a corresponding rule of the Texas Department of State Health Services because the student was not immunized.</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> This code is for situations in which the district discovers when verifying enrollment information that the student is not entitled to enrollment in the district because the student is not a resident of the district or is not entitled under other provisions of TEC §25.001 or as a transfer student. It is not for a student who was a resident of the district and who stops attending because he/she has moved. This code is also for rare situations in which the student has not met the requirements under TEC §38.001 or a corresponding rule of the Texas Department of State Health Services for immunization, provisional enrollment, or exemption.</p> <p>Subject to the exceptions in TEC §38.001(c), a student is required to be fully immunized against disease as required by the Texas Department of State Health Services (TEC §38.001(a)). A student may be provisionally admitted if the student has begun the required immunizations and continues to receive the necessary immunizations as rapidly as medically feasible (TEC §38.001(e)). Except as provided by TEC §38.001(c) or by rule of the Department of State Health Services, a student who is not fully immunized and has not begun the required immunizations may not attend school. For further information about enrollment procedures, please see the <i>Student Attendance Accounting Handbook</i>. For further information about immunization requirements, immunization exemptions, and immunization documentation, please contact the Texas Department of State Health Services.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Due process documentation supporting the withdrawal. All district actions to withdraw a student must be documented or the documentation for use of this leaver reason code may be considered insufficient. For purposes of leaver reason code 83, due process is defined as completion of the following steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. District provides oral or written notice, appropriately documented, to the student's parent, guardian, or qualified student him- or herself of intent to withdraw the student, reasons for the withdrawal, effective date of withdrawal, and date of hearing or conference at which the parent, guardian, or qualified student will have an opportunity to respond to the allegations that the student is not entitled to be enrolled in the district. Steps 2 and 3 are not required for cases in which the parent, guardian or qualified student agrees that the student is not entitled to enrollment in the district. Step 4 is always required for charter districts.</li> <li>2. District provides a hearing or conference at which the district presents the reasons for withdrawal, and the parent, guardian, or qualified student is given the opportunity to respond to the reasons for withdrawal.</li> <li>3. District provides a written report to the parent, guardian, or qualified student that contains the findings of fact and district decision following the hearing or conference. The written report shall include notice of the parent's, guardian's, or qualified student's right to appeal the district's decision.</li> <li>4. Charter districts shall notify the school district in which the student resides within three business days</li> </ol>



Code	Translation
	of withdrawing a student from a charter school, per Texas Administrative Code §100.1211.

### Other Reasons

03	<p><b>Student died while enrolled in school or during the summer break after completing the prior school year</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> Self-explanatory.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Acceptable documentation includes a copy of the death certificate or obituary, a program from the funeral or memorial service, a written statement from the parent or guardian, and written documentation of an oral statement by a parent or guardian stating that the student has died.</p>
16	<p><b>Student returned to family's home country</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> Use for students who are leaving the United States to return to their home country. A student may be leaving with or without family members to live with his or her family, immediate or extended, in the home country. The citizenship of the student is not relevant in assigning this code. This code can also be used for foreign exchange students.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Acceptable documentation is a copy of the Transfer Document for Binational Migrant Student completed at the time the student withdraws from school, signed and dated by an authorized campus or district administrator. Acceptable documentation is also a copy of the withdrawal form signed and dated by the parent/guardian or qualified student and a campus or district administrator. The withdrawal form should indicate that the student is leaving school because the student is returning to the home country and should specify the destination. An original signature is not required on withdrawal forms received in the district by fax. Withdrawal forms received by e-mail do not need to be signed by the parent/guardian or qualified student. A signed letter from the parent/guardian or qualified student stating that the student is leaving school because the student is returning to the home country is also acceptable documentation. Acceptable documentation for foreign exchange students includes a written, signed, and dated statement from the student's host family or the foreign student advisor verifying the student's return to his or her home country. Other acceptable documentation is written documentation of an oral statement by an adult neighbor or other adult with knowledge of the family's whereabouts, signed and dated by an authorized campus or district administrator.</p>
88	<p><b>Student was ordered by a court to attend a GED program and has not earned a GED certificate</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> This code is for students who are court-ordered to attend a GED program and have not earned a GED certificate at any time during the prior school year, including the summer (through August 31) following the close of the prior year.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Acceptable documentation is a copy of the court order stating that the student has been ordered to attend a high school equivalency or GED program. Documentation must include the name of the student, the date of the order, the name of the judge making the order, and the county in which the judge presides. The order should state that the court is ordering the student to attend a high school equivalency or GED program or to take a high school equivalency or GED exam.</p>
89	<p><b>Student is incarcerated in a state jail or federal penitentiary as an adult or as a person certified to stand trial as an adult</b></p> <p><b>Definition and use:</b> Student is incarcerated in a state jail or federal penitentiary as an adult or as a person certified to stand trial as an adult.</p> <p><b>Documentation requirement:</b> Acceptable documentation is one of the following: 1) Oral notification from a law enforcement agency, the office of the prosecuting attorney, or the jail or penitentiary, to an authorized representative of the district, that the student is incarcerated. The written statement of the oral notification shall be signed and dated by the authorized representative. 2) Written notification from a law enforcement agency, the office of the prosecuting attorney, or the jail or penitentiary, that the student is incarcerated.</p>

Code	Translation
98	<b>Other (reason unknown or not listed above)</b> <b>Definition and use:</b> This code is used for students who are withdrawn by the school district after a period of time because they have quit attending school and their reason for leaving is not known. It is also used for students who withdrew from/left school for reasons not listed above.