

Enrollment and Registration Requirements and Verification of Residency

Definitions:

School age shall be defined as the period from the earliest admission age for the District's kindergarten program until graduation from high school or the end of the school term in which a student reaches the age of twenty-one (21) years. For students who qualify as exceptional under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, school age shall be defined as the period from the earliest admission age for the District's kindergarten program until graduation from high school or until a student's twenty-second (22) birthday, whichever occurs first.

Registration Requirements:

Except for a homeless student, when a student of school age is presented to any District school for enrollment, school staff will require the following documentation before enrolling the student and permitting them to attend school:

1. Proof of the student's age - acceptable documentation includes one (1) of the following:
 - a. Birth certificate.
 - b. Notarized copy of birth certificate.
 - c. Baptismal certificate.
 - d. Copy of the record of baptism, notarized or duly certified and showing date of birth.
 - e. Notarized statement from the parents/guardians or relative indicating date of birth.
 - f. Valid passport.
 - g. Prior school record indicating date of birth.

2. Immunizations required by law - acceptable documentation includes:
 - a. Student's immunization record.
 - b. Written statement from prior school district or a medical office that the required immunizations have been administered, or that a required series is being administered.

Verbal assurances from prior school district or a medical office that required immunizations have been completed, with records to follow.

3. Proof of residency - acceptable documentation includes one (1) of the following

from List A and one (1) of the following from List B, provided the address is clearly indicated in or on the document and provided that the document is validly issued and genuine as to the resident presenting the document:

List A

- a. Deed
- b. Lease
- c. Property tax bill
- d. Notarized multiple occupancy form

List B

- a. Current utility bill
- b. Current credit card bill
- c. Bank statement
- d. PENNDOT identification or driver's license
- e. PENNDOT vehicle registration
- f. Copy of a state/federal program enrollment
- g. Copy of paycheck stub with name and address of employer as well as employee
- h. Residency affidavits

- 4. Parent Registration Statement - a sworn statement attesting to whether (1) the student has been or is suspended or expelled for offenses involving drugs or alcohol, weapons, or infliction of injury or violence on school property, as required by law; or (2) the student was or is presently expelled for an offense involving a sexual assault conviction or adjudication, as required by law.
- 5. Home Language Survey - for all students enrolling in a school for the first time.

Documents That May Be Requested but Not as A Condition of Enrollment

School staff may ask for any of the following information, in addition to the required documentation, but will not require it as a condition of enrollment and will not delay a student's enrollment or attendance until the document(s) is provided:

- 1. Picture identification.
- 2. Health or physical examination records.
- 3. Academic records.
- 4. Attendance records.
- 5. Individualized Education Program.
- 6. Special education records.

7. Completed physical examination.
8. Completed Registration Form.

Documents That May Not Be Requested

School staff may not request any of the following information to verify enrollment or residency:

1. Social security number.
2. Reason for a student's placement if not living with natural parent.
3. Visa of student or parent.
4. Agency records.
5. Court order or records relating to a dependency proceeding, except in limited circumstances that occur when a custody order, agreement or dependency is being relied upon as the basis for enrollment.
6. Student's immigration status

Special Enrollment Considerations

District staff will consider what residency verification is reasonable in light of a family's situation and should be flexible.

Twins and higher order multiple siblings will be enrolled in the same manner as other students. Classroom placement of twins and higher order siblings will include parental input to the extent required by law.

The District cannot deny or delay a student's enrollment based on the information contained in a disciplinary record or sworn statement. However, the District can provide alternative education services during the period of expulsion for a student currently expelled for a weapons offense or for an offense involving a sexual assault conviction or adjudication. If a student has been expelled from the previous district for reasons other than a weapons or sexual assault offense, the District will review the student's prior performance and school record to determine the services and supports that will be provided upon enrollment in the District.

Students and families with limited English proficiency will be provided translation and interpretation services to the extent needed for them to understand the enrollment process and promptly enroll the student.

Requests for Student Records

Upon enrollment of a student, school staff will contact the student's prior school for a copy of the student's educational records. The prior district, if within Pennsylvania, is required by law to forward the records within ten (10) business days of the date of request.

When a student transfers from a Pennsylvania school entity, school staff will contact the sending school for a certified copy of the student's disciplinary record. The prior district is required by law to forward the certified copy within ten (10) days from receipt of the request.

When a student enrolls in any school, public or private, who previously attended school in another district in Pennsylvania, the district or school wherein the child is newly enrolled shall request and the district or school where the child previously attended shall surrender the health record of the child.

School staff will enroll a student no later than five (5) business days, regardless of receipt of student records from the prior school entity.

Students Enrolling Without Prior School Records

If a student is presented for enrollment without prior school records or if a private school withholds an enrolling student's records, the building principal may seek and accept information for a student placement that appears reliable as proof of successfully completed coursework, such as report cards and sworn affidavits of previous school teachers.

If reliable information cannot be obtained, the building principal, in consultation with the appropriate teacher(s), will promptly evaluate the student and determine the appropriate grade and/or courses for that student. The evaluation will consist of an interview and demonstration of the degree to which the student has achieved the academic standards established by the Board for District students.

Change of Address

When a student or parent/guardian notifies the District of a change of address within the District's boundaries, the parent/guardian will be required to provide new proof of residency within the District, as outlined above, and may need to complete other enrollment/registration requirements.

Students Living with Resident Adult Other Than Parent

When a student lives with a District resident who is supporting the student without personal compensation (gratis), the student can enroll in a District school if the resident makes application and provides the required documentation.

In addition to the required documents, school staff will require the resident to provide one (1) of the following:

1. Legal documentation to show dependency or guardianship which may include a custody or dependency order; or
2. Sworn and notarized statement indicating that the signer is a District resident and is supporting the student without receiving personal compensation, the student is living with them continuously and not just for the school year, and the resident accepts all personal obligations relative to school requirements.

School staff may also require additional information to substantiate the sworn statement under (2) above before enrolling the student in District schools. Notwithstanding any procedure to the contrary outlined in other Board Policy or Administrative Regulations, if it is found that the information contained in the sworn statement is false, the child may be removed from school after notice of an opportunity to appeal the removal in accordance with the following procedure:

1. The appeal must be submitted to the Superintendent within five (5) school days of the notice of removal from school
2. The Superintendent or designee shall provide a written report including a statement of the basis for the removal.
3. The Superintendent or designee shall prepare a similar written report if Board involvement becomes necessary to resolve the issue.

A resident's receipt of payments, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Transitional Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), pre-adoptive support, child support, maintenance on public or private health insurance, support from the military or military personnel or other payments for or on account of the student will not be considered personal compensation or gain.

School staff will not require the natural parent(s) or former guardian(s) to provide information.

The District reserves the right to periodically confirm the status of students attending District schools based on being supported gratis by a resident adult. This confirmation may include periodic visits to the home where the student is residing when conflicting information is provided or discovered regarding the eligibility status of a student.

Foster Students

Non-resident students placed in foster care in the District are entitled to the same educational privileges as students residing in the District and all protections outlined under applicable law. Non-resident exceptional students placed in foster care are entitled

to receive an appropriate program of special education. When a student is placed in foster care, or when a foster care student's placement changes, and the District is determined to be the student's school or origin, the District shall provide transportation to the foster care student in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding and Transportation Plan in effect between the District and the Chester County Office of Children, Youth and Families, unless a court order or applicable law dictates otherwise.

In addition to the required documents, school staff may request a letter from the appropriate agency verifying that the student is residing with a foster parent or is in a pre-adoptive or adoptive home. School staff cannot request a court order or agency records.

Students Living in Institutions

If the District hosts a children's detention home, drug and alcohol treatment center or similar facility, the District is required to provide an education, and special education when appropriate, to non-resident students placed in the institution.

Students placed in a children's institution have the right to attend District schools if appropriate for the student, upon submission of required documents

Children of Military Personnel

When a student is a child of a Pennsylvania resident who is deployed by the military and the student is living for that time with relatives or family friends residing in the District, the student is entitled to attend District schools, upon submission of required documents pursuant to Section 13-1302 of the Public School Code.

School staff will presume the District resident is supporting the student gratis, without personal compensation or gain.

Students Returning from Delinquency Placements

When a student returns to the District from a delinquency placement, school staff cannot automatically place the student in an alternative education program just because they had been adjudicated delinquent.

A student returning from a delinquency placement is entitled to an informal hearing prior to being placed in an alternative education program in accordance with 22 Pa. Code §12.8 (c).

The purpose of the hearing is to determine if the student is currently fit to return to the regular classroom or if they meet the definition of a disruptive student. Factors the District will consider include: (1) if the incident causing the adjudication occurred at school or a school-sponsored event; (2) student's behavior in the placement; (3) recommendations of teachers and adults, such as the juvenile probation officers, who have worked with the student.

While the District shall offer to hold the informal hearing prior to placement in the program, if the student's presence in the regular classroom poses a danger to persons or property or provides a disruption of the academic process, immediate placement in the alternative program may occur with the informal hearing to follow as soon as practicable.

Address Confidentiality Program (ACP)

A family can enroll a student using an Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) that lists a post office box as their address.

School staff will accept this post office box as the legal address and will not require additional information about the residence. All other required documents must be submitted for enrollment.

School records from the former school will be forwarded through the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP).

The ACP can be contacted at 1-800-563-6399 regarding questions about the family's eligibility for enrollment.

Enrollment Complaints

When a dispute arises regarding enrollment of a student, the individual attempting to enroll the student may file a complaint by mail, e-mail or telephone with the Superintendent or designee. The individual or the District may send written follow-up to the Department of Education, School Services Office

Verification of Continued Residency

The District may require parents/guardians or other adults with whom District students are residing to submit renewed proof of residency where the District reasonably suspects that a student may not be legally residing in the District. Removal proceedings may be brought against any student for whom the District does not receive continued proof of residency in the District. Any removal proceedings will take place in accordance with the procedures outlined in Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5116.

Adopted: February 28, 2005
Revised: July 1, 2009
Revised: August 2010
Revised: April 27, 2011
Reviewed: May 21, 2015
Revised: May 3, 2018
Revised: May 5, 2020
Revised: January 5, 2021
Revised: February 2, 2021
Revised: November 8, 2023