

DISTRICT RESIDENCY

The Governing Board desires to admit all students who reside within district boundaries or who fulfill the district residency requirements through other means as allowed by law. The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures to facilitate the receipt and verification of students' proof of residency.

(cf. 5116 - School Attendance Boundaries)

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify parents/guardians of all existing attendance options available in the district, including, but not limited to, all options for meeting residency requirements for school attendance. (Education Code 48980)

(cf. 5116.1 - Intradistrict Open Enrollment)

(cf. 5117 - Interdistrict Attendance)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

The Superintendent or designee shall require parents/guardians to provide documentation of the student's residency upon admission to a district school. A copy of the document or written statement offered as verification of residency shall be maintained in the student's mandatory permanent record. (5 CCR 432)

(cf. 5111 - Admission)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

When establishing a student's residency for enrollment purposes, the Superintendent or designee shall not inquire into a student's citizenship or immigration status.

A student's enrollment may be denied when the submitted documentation is insufficient to establish district residency. In any such case, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian in writing, including specific reasons for the denial.

Investigation of Residency

When the Superintendent or designee reasonably believes that a student's parent/guardian has provided false or unreliable evidence of residency, he/she may make reasonable efforts to determine that the student meets district residency requirements. An investigation may be initiated when the Superintendent or designee is able to identify specific, articulable facts supporting the belief that the parent/guardian has provided false or unreliable evidence of residency. (Education Code 48204.1, 48204.2)

DISTRICT RESIDENCY (continued)

The Superintendent or designee may assign a trained district employee to conduct the investigation. The investigation may include the examination of records, including public records, and/or interviews of persons who may have knowledge of the student's residency.

If necessary, the Superintendent or designee may employ the services of a private investigator to conduct the investigation. Before hiring a private investigator, the Superintendent or designee shall make other reasonable efforts to determine whether the student resides in the district. (Education Code 48204.2)

The investigation shall not include the surreptitious collection of photographic or videographic images of persons or places subject to the investigation. However, the use of technology is not prohibited if done in open and public view. (Education Code 48204.2)

Any employee or contractor engaged in the investigation shall truthfully identify himself/herself as an investigator to individuals contacted or interviewed during the course of the investigation. (Education Code 48204.2)

Appeal of Enrollment Denial

If the Superintendent or designee, upon investigation, determines that a student does not meet district residency requirements and denies the student's enrollment in the district, he/she shall provide the student's parent/guardian an opportunity to appeal that determination. (Education Code 48204.2)

The Superintendent or designee shall send the student's parent/guardian written notice specifying the basis for the district's determination. This notice shall also inform the parent/guardian that he/she may, within 10 school days, appeal the decision and provide new evidence of residency.

The burden shall be on the parent/guardian to show why the district's determination to deny enrollment should be overruled. (Education Code 48204.2)

A student who is currently enrolled in the district shall be allowed to remain in attendance at his/her school pending the results of the appeal. A student who is not currently enrolled in the district shall not be permitted to attend any district school unless his/her appeal is successful.

In an appeal to the Superintendent or designee of a determination that district residency requirements were not met, the Superintendent or designee shall review any evidence provided by the parent/guardian or obtained during the district's investigation and shall make a decision within 10 school days of receipt of the parent/guardian's request for the appeal. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

DISTRICT RESIDENCY (continued)

Enrollment Not Requiring District Residency

When approved by the Board and the appropriate agency, the district may enroll students from other countries who are in the United States on an F-1 visa or are participating in an international exchange program under the sponsorship of a government-approved agency.

(cf. 5111.2 - Nonresident Foreign Students)
(cf. 6145.6 - International Exchange)

The district may enroll a nonresident student living in an adjoining state or foreign country in accordance with Education Code 48050-48052.

District residency is not required for enrollment in a regional occupational center or program if there are openings in the program or class. (Education Code 52317)

(cf. 6178.2 - Regional Occupational Center/Program)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

DISTRICT RESIDENCY (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

220 Prohibition of discrimination

35160.5 Intradistrict open enrollment

35351 Assignment of students to particular schools

46600-46611 Interdistrict attendance permits

48050-48054 Nonresidents

48200-48208 Compulsory education law, especially:

48204 Residency requirements

48204.1-48204.2 Evidence of residency

48300-48316 Student attendance alternatives, school district of choice program

48350-48361 Open Enrollment Act transfers

48852.7 Education of homeless students; immediate enrollment

48853.5 Education of foster youth; immediate enrollment

48980 Notifications at beginning of term

52317 Regional occupational program, admission of persons including nonresidents

FAMILY CODE

6550-6552 Caregivers

GOVERNMENT CODE

6205-6210 Confidentiality of residence for victims of domestic violence

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

432 Retention of student records

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

11431-11435 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

COURT DECISIONS

Katz v. Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District, (2004) 117 Cal.App.4th 47

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Legal Guidance on Providing All Children Equal Access to Education, Regardless of Immigration Status, February 2017

Legal Guidance Regarding International Student Exchange Placement Organizations, April 2014

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS JOINT PUBLICATIONS

Fact Sheet: Information on the Rights of All Children to Enroll in School

Dear Colleague Letter: School Enrollment Procedures, May 8, 2014

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

California Secretary of State, Safe at Home Program: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/safeathome>

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: <http://www2.ed.gov/ocr>

U.S. Department of Justice: <http://www.justice.gov>

DISTRICT RESIDENCY

Criteria for Residency

A student shall be deemed to have complied with district residency requirements for enrollment in a district school if he/she meets any of the following criteria:

1. The student's parent/guardian resides within district boundaries. (Education Code 48200)
2. The student is placed within district boundaries in a regularly established licensed children's institution, a licensed foster home, or a family home pursuant to a court-ordered commitment or placement. (Education Code 48204)
3. The student is admitted through an interdistrict attendance option, such as an interdistrict attendance agreement, "school district of choice" transfer, or Open Enrollment Act transfer. (Education Code 46600, 48204, 48301, 48356)

(cf. 5117 - Interdistrict Attendance)

(cf. 5118 - Open Enrollment Act Transfers)

4. The student is an emancipated minor residing within district boundaries. (Education Code 48204)
5. The student lives with a caregiving adult within district boundaries and the caregiving adult submits an affidavit to that effect. (Education Code 48204)
6. The student resides in a state hospital located within district boundaries. (Education Code 48204)
7. The student is confined to a hospital or other residential health facility within district boundaries for treatment of a temporary disability. (Education Code 48204, 48207)

(cf. 6183 - Home and Hospital Instruction)

8. The student's parent/guardian resides outside district boundaries but is employed within district boundaries and lives with the student at the place of employment for a minimum of three days during the school week. (Education Code 48204)
9. The student's parent/guardian, while on active military duty pursuant to an official military order, is transferred or is pending transfer to a military installation within district boundaries. (Education Code 48204.3)

(cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)

DISTRICT RESIDENCY (continued)

Residency Based on Parent/Guardian Employment (Allen Bill Transfers)

District residency status may be granted to a student if at least one of his/her parents/guardians is physically employed within district boundaries for a minimum of 10 hours during the school week. No student seeking residency on this basis shall be denied enrollment based on race, ethnicity, sex, parental income, scholastic achievement, or any of the individual characteristics set forth in Education Code 220. However, the Superintendent or designee may deny enrollment into the district if any of the following circumstances is present: (Education Code 48204)

1. The additional cost of educating the student would exceed the amount of additional state aid received as a result of the transfer.
2. Enrollment of the student would adversely affect the district's court-ordered or voluntary desegregation plan as determined by the Governing Board.
3. Other circumstances exist that are not arbitrary.

Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, overcrowding of school facilities at the relevant grade level.

Once a student establishes residency on this basis, he/she shall not be required to reapply for enrollment in subsequent years. The student may continue to attend school in the district through the highest grade level offered by the district if the parent/guardian so chooses and if at least one parent/guardian of the student continues to be physically employed by an employer situated within district boundaries, subject to the exceptions in items #1-3 above. (Education Code 48204)

The Superintendent or designee may deny a transfer out of the district by a student whose parent/guardian is employed within the boundaries of another district if the difference between the number of students entering and exiting the district on the basis of parent/guardian employment exceeds the limits prescribed in Education Code 48204. (Education Code 48204)

Proof of Residency

Evidence of residency may be established by documentation showing the name and address of the parent/guardian within the district, including, but not limited to, any of the following: (Education Code 48204.1)

DISTRICT RESIDENCY (continued)

1. Property tax payment receipt
2. Rental property contract, lease, or payment receipt
3. Utility service contract, statement, or payment receipt
4. Pay stub
5. Voter registration
6. Correspondence from a government agency
7. Declaration of residency executed by the student's parent/guardian
8. If the student is an unaccompanied youth as defined in 42 USC 11434a, a declaration of residency executed by the student
9. If the student is residing in the home of a caregiving adult within district boundaries, an affidavit executed by the caregiving adult in accordance with Family Code 6552

(cf. 5141 - Health Care and Emergencies)

A parent/guardian seeking residency status on the basis of his/her employment within district boundaries shall submit proof of the employment which may include, but not be limited to, a paycheck stub or letter from his/her employer listing a physical address within district boundaries. Such evidence shall also indicate the number of hours or days per school week that the parent/guardian is employed at that location.

A parent/guardian who is transferred or pending transfer into a military installation within district boundaries shall provide proof of residence within 10 days after the published arrival date provided on official documentation. For this purpose, he/she may use as his/her address a temporary on-base billeting facility, a purchased or leased home or apartment, or federal government or public-private venture off-base military housing. (Education Code 48204.3)

Any homeless or foster youth or student who has had contact with the juvenile justice system shall be immediately enrolled in school even if he/she is unable to provide proof of residency. (Education Code 48645.5, 48852.7, 48853.5; 42 USC 11432)

(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

(cf. 6173.3 - Education for Juvenile Court School Students)

DISTRICT RESIDENCY (continued)

Safe at Home/Confidential Address Program

When a student or parent/guardian participating in the Safe at Home program requests that the district use the substitute address designated by the Secretary of State, the Superintendent or designee may request the actual residence address for the purpose of establishing residency within district boundaries but shall use the substitute address for all future communications and correspondence and shall not include the actual address in the student's file or any other public record. (Government Code 6206, 6207)

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

Regulation
approved: February 23, 1999
revised: August 22, 2000
revised: August 7, 2001
revised: March 5, 2012
revised: May 12, 2016
revised: October 12, 2016

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Visalia, California