

SCHOOL ADMISSION / RESIDENCY

The Franklin School Committee adopts the following policy regarding the residency and admissions of students. The staff is directed to ensure that all forms and regulations are fully executed and conform to this policy.

I. RESIDENCY

In order to attend the Public Schools of Franklin, a student must actually reside in the Town of Franklin, unless one of the exceptions (set forth in Part V below) applies. The residence of a minor child is ordinarily presumed to be the legal residence of the child's parent or legal guardian having physical custody of the child. A student's actual residence is considered to be the place where he or she lives permanently. In determining residency, the Public Schools of Franklin retain the right to require the production of a variety of records and documentation and to investigate where a student actually resides.

A determination that a student does not actually reside in the Town of Franklin renders the student ineligible to enroll in the Public Schools of Franklin or, if the student is already enrolled in the Public Schools of Franklin, shall result in the termination of such enrollment. A parent, legal guardian, or student who has reached the age of majority (18), who is aggrieved by a determination of residency may appeal the determination to the Superintendent of Schools, whose decision shall be final.

II. VERIFICATION OF RESIDENCY

Before any student is enrolled in the Public Schools of Franklin, his or her parent or legal guardian must provide:

1. A signed Affidavit of Residency; and
2. Proof of residency in the Town of Franklin (2 documents)

All applicants for enrollment must submit at least one document each from Column A and B and any other documents that may be requested, including but not limited to those from Column A and, B (noted below). A parent, guardian, or student who is unable to produce the required documents should contact the Superintendent of Schools.

Column AEvidence of Residency

Record of recent mortgage payment and/or property tax bill.

Copy of Fully Signed Lease *and* record of recent rental payment (NB; School District reserves the right to contact landlord to verify lease)

Landlord Affidavit *and* recent rental payment

Section 8 Agreement

Column BEvidence of Identification (Photo ID)

Valid Driver's License

Valid MA Photo ID Card

Passport

Other Government issued Photo ID

Signed HUD Settlement Statement

The Principal, or his/her designee, shall verify the home address and home telephone number of each student at least once during the school year. Any irregularities shall be reported promptly to the Superintendent of Schools. Parents are required to notify the school of any changes of their address or the address of the student within five days of the change.

III. ENFORCEMENT

Should a question arise concerning any student's residency in the Town of Franklin while attending the Public Schools of Franklin, the student's residency will be subject to further inquiry and/or investigation. Such questions concerning residency may arise on the basis of incomplete, suspicious, or contradictory proofs of address; anonymous tips; correspondence that is returned to the Public Schools of Franklin because of an invalid or unknown address, or other grounds.

The Superintendent may request additional documentation, may use the assistance of the School Department's Attendance Officer, and/or may obtain the services of police or investigative agency personnel to conduct investigations into student residence. The Attendance Officer and/or residency investigator(s) will report his or her findings to the Superintendent of Schools, who shall make final determination of residency.

Upon an initial determination by the Superintendent of Schools that a student is actually residing in a city or town other than the Town of Franklin, the student's enrollment in the Public Schools of Franklin shall be terminated immediately.

IV. PENALTIES

In addition to termination of enrollment and the imposition of other penalties permitted by law, the Public Schools of Franklin reserve the right to recover restitution based upon the costs of educational services provided during the period of non-residency.

V. EXCEPTIONS

1. The Residency Requirements Shall Not Apply to the Following:

- a. Students enrolled in the High School under special programs approved by the School Committee, such as educational exchange programs;
- b. Tuition paying students, as permitted by law;
- c. School Choice students, as permitted by law; and if the School Committee adopts the School Choice option;
- d. Students who are entitled to attend the Public Schools of Franklin under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

2. Extraordinary Circumstances:

a. Tuition Basis

Students already enrolled in the Public Schools of Franklin who move out on or after February 1st of a given school year, or in the case of 8th graders and Franklin High School seniors who move out on or after October 1st of a given school year, may complete the current school year.

b. Tuition Waivers

At the discretion of the Superintendent or his designee, tuition may be waived in the following cases:

1. Students in their senior class at Franklin High School who move from Franklin on or after October 1 of their senior year, and who have resided in Franklin during the entire previous school year.
2. Students who move because of the severe or chronic illness of the student or immediate family member; the death of an immediate family member; disaster to the residence; or other circumstances having a significant impact upon the student.
3. Students whose parents divorce or separate and share custody, provided one custodial parent remains a resident of Franklin and the student resides at least 50% of the time with the parent who resides in Franklin. Under such circumstance, parents will need to provide documentation reflecting custodial arrangements.

3. Dwellings that are Intersected by the Town Line:

a. Dwellings that are Intersected by the Town Line prior to the Adoption of this Policy:

1. In the case of a single family dwelling, as distinguished from a plot of land, that is intersected by whatever degree by the Town Boundary Line prior to the adoption of this policy, and upon which some property tax is assessed by the Town of Franklin, persons residing therein may attend the Public Schools of Franklin.
2. In the case of a multiple-dwelling structure in which any apartment, suite, or family unit located therein is intersected by the Town Boundary Line prior to the adoption of this policy, and upon which some property tax is assessed by the Town of Franklin, persons residing therein may attend the Public Schools of Franklin.

b. Dwellings that are Built or Altered After the Adoption of this Policy:

1. In the case of a single family dwelling that is intersected by whatever degree by the Town Boundary Line because of construction or alterations occurring after the adoption of this policy, if more than fifty percent of such dwelling is located within the Town boundary, persons residing therein may attend the Public Schools of Franklin.
2. In the case of a multiple-dwelling structure in which any apartment, suite, or family unit located therein is intersected by the Town Boundary Line because of construction or alterations occurring after the adoption of this policy, if more than fifty percent of such apartment, suite or family unit is located within the Town boundary, persons residing therein may attend the Public Schools of Franklin.

VII. NOTIFICATION

The Public Schools of Franklin residency requirements, verification procedures, and consequences of falsifying or misrepresenting residency will be published in the Franklin School Committee Policy Manual, and published in each school handbook.

Legal Reference: M.G.L. Chapter 76, Section 1
M.G.L. Chapter 76, Section 5

Reviewed, revised 2/7/12

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