

RESIDENCY AND STUDENT ENROLLMENT

(formerly School Admissions)

In order to attend the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District, a student must actually reside in the town of Acton or the town of Boxborough. The residence of a minor child is presumed to be the legal, primary residence of the parents or legal guardians who have physical custody of the child. "Residency" is defined as the place where a person has his/her permanent home, not temporarily, and is the center of his/her domestic, social, and civic life.

In determining residency, the Acton Boxborough Regional Schools reserve the right to request a variety of documentation when students are initially enrolled in the schools, or in the course of any investigation intended to verify residency.

I. Registration Process and Residency Verification

Before any student is to be enrolled in the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District, his or her parent or legal guardian must provide to the school(s) proof of residency, proof of legal guardianship of the child being registered and other documentation pertaining to academic and medical records. Families should be prepared to furnish all of the following during the registration process:

- a. Copy of birth certificate for student
- b. Copy of student's current immunization record and physical examination (within the last year)
- c. Copies of previous school records - report cards or transcripts, MCAS scores if moving within the state of MA
- d. A signed Statement/Affidavit of Occupancy
- e. Copy of photo identification of parent/guardian
 - i. *Evidence of Identification*: including, but not limited to one of the following: valid driver's license, MA Photo ID card, valid passport, or other government issued photo ID
- f. Proof of residency & occupancy in Acton or Boxborough - note that parent/guardian name must be listed:
 - i. *Evidence of Residency*: including but not limited to recent mortgage payment or property tax bill, fully signed and executed lease and/or rental agreement, fully signed and executed purchase and sale (P&S) agreement (provided occupancy date occurs before a student can be registered), Section 8 agreement

AND

 - ii. *Evidence of Occupancy*: Including but not limited to gas/Oil bill, electric bill, home (not cell) telephone bill, cable bill, water bill (note: bill must be dated within the past 45 days and address and name must be stated)

When applicable, families must also provide the District with:

- g. Copies of any IEP or 504 Plan documentation for the student
- h. Parenting plan for divorced or separated parents/guardians

II. Enforcement

Questions concerning any student's residency in Acton or Boxborough 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 because of an invalid or unknown address, or other grounds.

The Director of Personnel and Administrative Services or his/her designee may request additional documentation and may use the assistance of the District's School Resource Officer to assist with or conduct investigations into student residency. A report of findings will be provided to the Director of Personnel and Administrative Services, who shall make an initial determination of residency.

Upon determination that a student is not actually residing in Acton or Boxborough, the student's enrollment in the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District shall be terminated. In addition to termination of enrollment and the imposition of other penalties permitted by law, the Acton Boxborough Regional Schools reserve the right to recover restitution based upon the costs of educational services during the period of non-residency.

III. Exceptions & Extraordinary Circumstances

The residency requirements listed above shall not apply to the following. In all circumstances, if the request is granted, student transportation during the period of non-residency shall be the responsibility of the parents or legal guardians.

- a. Students who are entitled to attend the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- b. Students enrolled in the High School under special programs approved by the School Committee, such as educational exchange programs
- c. Children of non-resident employees of the Acton Boxborough Regional Schools, who meet the conditions established by the School Committee in the policy pertaining to such students
- d. Students accepted and/or grandfathered into the District through the School Choice program
- e. Students whose parents divorce or separate and share physical custody, provided one custodial parent remains a resident of Acton or Boxborough, and the student resides at least 4 nights a week with the parent who resides in Acton or Boxborough. The most current custody agreement and/or approved parenting plan must be provided in these circumstances.

- f. For children whose families have signed and accepted a Purchase and Sale Agreement to purchase and reside in a dwelling in Acton or Boxborough, they may be enrolled up to 60 calendar days in advance of the time actual physical residency occurs. This exception may only be granted with prior written approval from the Superintendent.

Below are extraordinary circumstances in which exceptions may be considered, at the discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

- g. If a student's family moves from Acton or Boxborough on or after April 1st of a given school year, the parents or legal guardians may place a request in writing to the Superintendent to have their student(s) remain in the Acton-Boxborough School District for the completion of the academic year. To be considered for this exception, families must make the request to the Superintendent at least two weeks prior to such a move.
- h. If a student is a senior at Acton-Boxborough High School, and his/her family moves out of the District on or after October 1st of a given school year, the parents or legal guardians may submit a request in writing to the Superintendent to have their student(s) remain in Acton-Boxborough for the completion of the academic year.
- i. Current students who move out of Acton or Boxborough 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.

Special requests and extraordinary circumstances that are not specifically articulated above, must be presented in writing to the Superintendent or his/her designee. The Superintendent has sole discretion in rendering a decision for these requests, and those decisions are final.

IV. Notification

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School District residency requirements, verification procedures, and consequences for falsifying or misrepresenting residency will be posted on the District's website, individual school websites, and the District's policy manual.

REF: JF-E Proof of Residency Affidavit

Approved 1/22/15