



STUDENT RESIDENCY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS 2018-19

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Presentation to School Committee
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Student Residency Overview

Our mission is to create an equitable, coherent and innovative school system. We greatly value city residents having full access to our public schools. A strong residency policy and the rigorous enforcement supports these values. It is important that Boston Public School seats are filled with City of Boston residents.

- BPS reserves the right to request a variety of documentation and to conduct an investigation into where a student actually resides.
- We recognize that residency can, and does, change for students and their families during the course of the academic year.
- The Boston Public School District receives information of residency violations from an anonymous tip line, teachers and school administrators, families, students and community residents. All tips and information are followed up on and vigorously investigated.
- We are particularly sensitive to the needs of our families from historically marginalized populations, such as those students experiencing homelessness, who may be experiencing life challenges that result in behaviors that raise inaccurate suspicion.

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 76, Section 5

The Boston Public Schools (BPS) Residency Policy, revised in September 2013 to include eligible students applying to exam schools, states that in order to attend Boston Public Schools, a student must actually reside in the City of Boston. The residence of a minor child is presumed to be the legal, primary residence of the parent(s) or guardian(s) who have physical custody of the child. Residency is defined as “the place where a person dwells permanently, not temporarily, and is the place that is the center of his or her domestic, social, and civic life.”

The Boston Public School Residency Policy is outlined in detail on our website (www.bostonpublicschools.org) and in our Family and Student Handbook, which is distributed annually to every student and family attending the Boston Public Schools.

Residency Reminder Letter-October

“ALL APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE:

Child’s original birth certificate or I-94 form (court order of guardianship if applicable)

Parent/Guardian photo identification

TWO OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS *(items cannot be from the same bullet):*

- A Utility Bill (not water or cell phone) dated within the past 60 days
- A Deed, Mortgage Payment dated within the past 60 days, or Property Tax Bill dated within the last year
- A current Lease, Section 8 Agreement, or [BPS Landlord Affidavit](#)
- A W2 form dated within the year or a Payroll Stub dated within the past 60 days
- A Bank or Credit Card Statement dated within the past 60 days
- A Letter from an Approved Government Agency* dated within the past 60 days

* **Approved government agencies:** *Departments of Revenue (DOR), Children and Family Services (DCF), Transitional Assistance (DTA), Youth Services (DYS), Social Security, any communications on Commonwealth of Massachusetts Letterhead.*

** *If the parent has a recent name change, appropriate legal documentation is required.*”

Student Residency By-the Numbers 2017-18

- 132 total residency tips/investigations for 2017-18 school year
- 62 general residency investigations (which include all schools)
- 70 students on our November ISEE Student Residency flag list for exam schools who have addresses outside of the city. Of those 70:
 - 28 students proved Boston residency
 - 27 students proved to be non-residents of Boston
 - 12 students not invited due to test scores
 - less than 10 students never sent GPA so not considered

Policy Recommendation #1

“If you currently attend a public school outside of the Boston Public School District we will require a letter from the respective Superintendent from that city or town stating that they are aware of Boston residency, as per our requirement, prior to taking the exam in November but attending their public school.”

- Letter must be original, on letterhead and notarized.
- Must accompany our required documents prior to taking the ISEE.
- Have had conversations with neighboring school districts who agree that this would assist them in cutting down on fraud.

Policy Recommendation #2

“We reserve the right to request additional proof(s) of documentation if a student and their families have previously been found to be in violation of our residency policy and are re-registering their child in BPS.”

- Currently coded in SIS as a residency violation.
- OIIT will add an alert/pop-up to SIS flagging case for registration specialists.
- We have found numerous instances whereby students have been discharged and then re-register under a new address and have gotten assigned to some of our higher demand schools.