

Gouverneur Central School District

Procedures and Requirements for Student Enrollment

These Procedures and Requirements represent a change in the District's student enrollment practices. In accordance with 8 NYCRR §100.2(y), the District makes these Procedures and Requirements publicly available.

We enroll all children who meet the age, residency, and public health requirements established by New York State law. We also enroll students who are considered homeless, following the standards and procedures of federal and state law.

Conditional Enrollment and Attendance

When a child's parent, or a person in parental relation to a child, requests enrollment of the child in our school district, we enroll the child on a conditional basis, and the child is expected to begin attendance the next day or as soon as necessary arrangements can be made. Enrollment is considered conditional pending our review of documentation presented by the child's parent, or the person in parental relation to the child. The child shall continue to be conditionally enrolled, and expected to attend school pending a complete review of documentation, as well as the duration of any review of an unfavorable decision.

Process and Documentation for Enrollment Review

The initial determination regarding the student's eligibility for continued enrollment, including the student's residency status is made by the Residency Officer. The required documentation should be provided to the Residency Officer at 315-287-1949.

As required by 8 NYCRR Section 100.2(y), the District will not request on any enrollment/registration forms, or in any meeting or other form of communication, a Social Security card or number, or, any information regarding or which would tend to reveal the immigration status of the child, the child's parent (s) or the person(s) in parental relation, including but not limited to copies of or information concerning visas or other documentation indicating immigration status.

Residency

The District seeks documentation to verify that the child to be enrolled resides with the parent or person in parental relation, and that the parent or person in parental relation maintains a physical presence in the District that qualifies as a residence.

To establish that the adult maintains a residence in the District, the District first requests this documentation, which may include, but will not be restricted to:

- A copy of a residential lease or proof of ownership of a house or condominium, such as a deed or mortgage statement;
- A statement signed by a third-party landlord, owner, or tenant from whom the parents or person(s) in parental relation leases or with whom they share property within the District, which may be sworn or unsworn; or
- Some other signed statement from a third party establishing the parent(s)' or person(s) in parental relation's physical presence within the District.

If these forms of documentation are not available, the District will accept for review other forms of documentation of residency, including but not limited to:

- Pay stub;
- Income tax form;
- Utility or other bills;
- Membership documents based on residency (e.g., library card);
- Voter registration documents;
- Official driver license, learner permit, or non-driver identification;
- State or other government issued identification or documents relating to government services or benefits;
- Documents issued by federal, state or local agencies (e.g. local social service agency, federal Office of Refugee Resettlement); or
- Evidence of custody of the child, including, but not limited to judicial custody orders or guardianship papers.

The District may also require the parent(s) or person(s) in parental relation to provide an affidavit either: (1) indicating that they are the parent(s) with whom the child lawfully resides; or (2) indicating that they are the person(s) in parental relation to the child, over whom they have total and permanent custody and control, whether through guardianship or otherwise. The District may also accept other proof, such as documentation indicating that the child resides with a sponsor with whom the child has been placed by a federal agency. The District will not require submission of a judicial custody order or an order of guardianship as a condition of enrollment.

Age of Child

A child will be enrolled if the child will be age five before December 1 of the school year for which the student seeks to enroll, and will be enrolled through the school year in which the child either completes high school graduation requirements or reaches age 21.

If there is available a certified transcript of a birth certificate or record of baptism, including a certified transcript of a foreign birth certificate or certificate of baptism, no other form of evidence will be accepted to establish the child's age.

If a certified transcript of a birth certificate or record of baptism is not available, the District will request a passport, including a foreign passport, to establish the child's age.

If neither a certified transcript of a birth certificate or record of baptism, or a passport, is available, the District will consider other documentation, including but not limited to the types in this list, provided that those documents have been in existence for two (2) years or more:

- Official driver's license for the child;
- State or other government issued identification,;
- School photo identification with date of birth;
- Consulate identification card;
- Hospital or health records;
- Military dependent identification card;
- Documents issued by federal, state or local agencies (e.g. local social service agency, federal Office of Refugee Resettlement);
- Court orders or court-issued documents;

- Native American tribal documents; or
- Records from non-profit international aid agencies and voluntary organizations.

Where documents are presented that originate in a foreign country, the District may request verification of the documents from an appropriate foreign government or agency, consistent with the requirements of FERPA concerning the confidentiality of education records.

Public Health Requirements

The District requires proof of immunization, as required by Section 2164(7) of the New York State Public Health Law, before a student may attend school. Those requirements can also be reviewed in Board Policy 7022. The District will also exclude an enrolled student from attending school when the student has a communicable or infectious disease that imposes a significant risk of infection of others, as required by Section 906 of the New York State Education Law.

Determination Regarding Continued Enrollment

In the usual case, a determination of whether the child is entitled to continue attendance in the District will be made by the Superintendent or designee within three (3) business days of the child's initial enrollment. This time period may be extended where additional documentation is required, or verification is required. Each parent or person in parental relation who seeks to enroll a child will be provided a reasonable opportunity to submit available information. A written notification of the determination will be provided to the parent or person in parental relation who requested the enrollment.

If the determination has been made by a school official other than the Board or its designee, the parent or person in parental relation will be notified of the procedure for obtaining a review of that determination within the District.

When the Board or its designee determines that a child is not entitled to attend school in the District because the child is not a resident of the District, the written notice of that determination will be provided to the parent or person in parental relation within two (2) business days of the determination, and it will include this information:

- That the child is considered not entitled to attend school in the District because of non-resident status;
- The specific basis for the determination that the child is not a resident of the district, including a description of the documentary and other evidence upon which the determination is based;
- The date on which the child will be excluded from school; and
- That the determination may be appealed to the Commissioner of Education, in accordance with Education Law Section 310, within thirty (30) days of the date of the determination, and that the instructions, forms, and procedures for taking such an appeal (including translated versions of the instructions and forms) may be obtained from the Office of Counsel at www.counsel.nysed.gov or by mail addressed to the Office of Counsel, New York State Education Department, State Education Building, Albany, New York 12234, or by calling the Appeals Coordinator at (518) 474-8927.