

10100 STUDENT ATTENDANCE AREAS**10110 Student Attendance****Authority**

It is the duty of the Board to ensure that all children living within its jurisdiction have an equal opportunity to receive a free and appropriate education and to require school attendance by all children living within the District, as prescribed by law.

The educational program offered by the District is predicated upon the presence of the student in school. In order for students to benefit from planned educational activities and classroom participation, it is essential that regular attendance be maintained.

Definitions

“School age” shall be defined as the period from the earliest admission age for the District's kindergarten program until graduation from high school or the end of the school term in which a student reaches the age of twenty-one (21) years, whichever occurs first.

“District of residence” shall be defined as the school district in which a student's parents/guardians reside.

“Compulsory school age,” shall be defined as the period of a child's life from the time the child enters school, which shall be not later than at the age of eight (8) years, until the age of seventeen (17) years. The term shall not include any child who holds a certificate of graduation from a regularly accredited, **licensed, registered, or approved** ~~senior~~ high school.

Right to Attend Public School

The District shall enroll school age students eligible to attend District schools, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, Board policy and administrative regulations.

For purposes of the above definition of “school age,” in order to meet the earliest admission age for the District’s kindergarten program, the student must be five-years-old before the first day of school of the school year in which admission is sought. Beginning with the 2020/2021 school year, and continuing thereafter, in order to meet the earliest admission age for the District’s kindergarten program, the student must be

1 five-years-old on or before July 1. No early admission to Kindergarten shall be
2 permitted.

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4 In order to be eligible for first grade as a beginner, the student must be six-years-old
5 before the first day of school of the school year in which admission is sought.
6 Beginning with the 2021/2022 school year, and continuing thereafter, in order to be
7 eligible for first grade as a beginner, the student must be six-years-old on or before
8 July 1. No early admission to first grade as a beginner shall be permitted.

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10 Enrollment Requirements

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12 School age resident students and eligible nonresident students shall be entitled to
13 attend District schools.

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15 The District shall not enroll a student until the parent/guardian has submitted proof of
16 the student's age, residence, and immunizations and a completed Parent Registration
17 Statement, as required by the applicable law and regulations.

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19 The District shall administer a home language survey to all students enrolling in
20 District schools for the first time.

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22 The District shall normally enroll a school age, eligible student the next business day,
23 but no later than five (5) business days after application.

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25 The District shall not inquire about the immigration status of a student as part of the
26 enrollment process, nor shall any child's right to be admitted to school be conditioned
27 on the child's immigration status.

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29 Enrollment requirements and administrative regulations shall apply to nonresident
30 students approved to attend District schools, in accordance with Board policy, by the
31 Superintendent.

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33 Residency Eligibility

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35 When the parents of a student reside in different school districts, the student may
36 attend school in the district of residence of the parent with whom the student lives for
37 the majority of the time, unless a court order or court approved custody agreement
38 specifies otherwise.

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40 If the parents of a student share joint custody and time is evenly divided, the parents
41 may choose which of the two (2) school districts the student will enroll in for the
42 school year.

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44 If the student is an emancipated minor, the resident school district shall be the one in
45 which the student is then living.
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Homeless students shall be enrolled immediately by the District in accordance with current federal and state regulations and Policy 10140.

The Superintendent or his/her designee is empowered to develop administrative procedures, in compliance with state requirements, which guarantee the right of every school-age resident student and eligible nonresident student to attend the public school.

A student's assigned school shall be the school located in his/her attendance area unless special programs, services or facilities necessitate assignment to another building.

Non-Resident Students

Non-resident students of school age who are living with and under the supervision of a District resident shall be entitled to the same educational programs and services as those enjoyed by resident students providing that authorization and an appropriate agreement with the non-resident student's home district is in place.

The Superintendent, or his/her designee, shall require that appropriate legal documentation showing dependency or guardianship or a sworn statement of full residential support be filed with the appropriate building Principal before an eligible nonresident student may be accepted as a student in District schools. The Superintendent, or his/her designee, may require a resident to submit additional, reasonable information to substantiate a sworn statement, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Education. The Superintendent, or his/her designee, reserves the right to verify claims of residency, dependency and guardianship and to remove from school attendance a nonresident student whose claim is invalid.

If information contained in the sworn statement of residential support is found to be false, the student shall be removed from school after notice is given of an opportunity to appeal the student's removal. The District shall not be responsible for transportation to or from school for any nonresident student residing outside District boundaries.

Tuition rates shall be determined in accordance with statute. Tuition shall be charged monthly, in advance of attendance.

Nonresident Children Placed In The District

Any child placed in the home of a District resident by a court or government agency shall be admitted to District schools and shall receive the same benefits and be subject to the same responsibilities as resident children.

Other Nonresident Students

A nonresident student may be admitted to District schools without payment of tuition where attendance is justified on the grounds that the student lives full-time and not just for the school year with District residents who have assumed legal dependency or guardianship or full residential support of the student.

The category of “non-resident students” includes school-aged students residing in foster homes or an institution or other facility within the District.

The Superintendent, or his/her designee, shall develop procedures for the enrollment of nonresident students which:

1. Admit such students only on proper application and submission of required documentation by the parent/guardian.
2. Verify claims of residency.
3. Do not exclude any eligible student on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, or handicap/disability.
4. Deny admission where the educational facilities or program maintained for District students is inadequate to meet the needs of the applicant.
5. Make continued enrollment of any nonresident student contingent upon maintaining established standards of attendance, discipline and academics.
6. Outline the appeal procedure relative to the removal of a student

Absences from School

Students shall be excused from school only for absences which are stipulated as “excusable” in the school code. When a student is absent from school for reasons which are not consistent with “excused absences” in the school code, the absences shall be recognized as “unexcused.” The District shall maintain procedures and attendance/absence records in compliance with the school code.

Excessive Absences

The District has a responsibility to investigate excessive absences by students. This applies to students of compulsory school age as well as those beyond compulsory school age. A Doctor’s excuse shall be requested when excessive absences occur. Students beyond compulsory school age may not be maintained on District rolls when they do not attend school regularly. The District shall maintain procedures regarding truancy and for investigating excessive absences

Withholding Academic Credit; Missed Tests, Assignments, and Other Work

Academic credit may not be withheld solely on the basis of excessive excused or unexcused absences. **A student shall be afforded the opportunity to make up any tests, assignments, or other work that is missed on a day the student has an excused**

or an unexcused absence. A teacher, at his/her discretion, may also utilize a class participation grading component that is impacted by absences. The timeframe within which any missed test, assignment, or other work must be made up and the parameters of a class participation grading component shall be governed by a separate administrative procedure that is approved by the Superintendent and included as a part of the Student Handbook.

Adoption Date - September 13, 1999

Revision Date - October 11, 2010; January 10, 2011; August 12, 2013; January 11, 2016; July 31, 2017; January 8, 2018; **August 12, 2019**

Review Date -

Legal Reference - School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 501, 502, 1301, 1302, 1303a, 1305, 1306, 1306.2, 1309, 1310, 1316, 1326, 2503, 2561

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 11.11, 11.12, 11.14, 11.15, 11.18, 11.19, 11.41, 12.1

Pa. Dept. of Educ. BEC §13-1301 – §13-1306 (2009)

Pa. Dept. of Educ. BEC §5-503 (2000)

Cross Reference

CJS/jf, AEH/lsn/rah