

**POLICY RELATING TO PUPIL SERVICES**

**STUDENT RESIDENCY POLICY**

The Wachusett Regional School District Committee adopts the following policy regarding the residency and enrollment of students.

I. RESIDENCY (Legal Reference: M.G.L. Chapter 76, Section 5)

In order to attend a school within the Wachusett Regional School District, a student must actually reside in Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, or Sterling, unless the exception (set forth in Part V below) applies. Residence, for purposes of this policy shall be defined as: The place where the student lives permanently. The permanent 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. In determining residency, Wachusett Regional School District (WRSD) retains 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 Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, or Sterling renders the student ineligible to enroll in the WRSD or, if the student is already enrolled in the WRSD, shall result, subject only to Section V. B below, in the immediate 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 child is enrolled in the Wachusett Regional School District, his/her parent or legal guardian must provide the following required proofs of primary residency as part of the registration process. Applications cannot be processed without these documents.

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***STUDENT RESIDENCY POLICY (continued)***

<b>Column A (must provide one)</b>	<b>Column B (must provide one)</b>	<b>Column C (must provide one)</b>
<b>Evidence of Residency</b>	<b>Evidence of Occupancy</b>	<b>Evidence of Identification</b>
Record of recent mortgage payment and/or property tax bill	Recent bill dated within the past 60 days showing address within WRSD	Valid driver’s license Valid MA photo ID card Valid passport (Photo ID for all above)
Copy of lease and record of recent rental payment	Gas bill	
Landlord Affidavit and recent rental payment	Oil bill	
Section 8 Agreement	Electric bill	
	Home telephone bill (not cell phone)	
<b><u>For all new construction, must provide a Certificate of Occupancy</u></b>	Cable bill	
	Excise tax bill	

Parents are required to notify the school of any changes of their address or the address of the student within five (5) business days of the change.

**III. ENFORCEMENT**

Should a question arise concerning any student’s residency elsewhere while attending the WRSD, the student’s residency will be subject to further inquiry and/or investigation. Such questions concerning residency may arise on the basis of, but are not limited to, incomplete, suspicious, or contradictory proofs of address; anonymous tips; correspondence that is returned to the WRSD because of an invalid or unknown address, or other grounds.

The District may request additional documentation and may obtain the services of police, town departments and/or investigative agency personnel to conduct investigations into student residence. The Superintendent of Schools shall make the final determination of residency.

Upon determination by the Superintendent of Schools that a student is actually residing in a city or town other than Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland or Sterling, the student’s enrollment in WRSD shall be terminated immediately.

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**STUDENT RESIDENCY POLICY (continued)**

IV. PENALTIES

In addition to termination of enrollment and the imposition of other penalties permitted by law (M.G.L. Chapter 76, Section 5), the WRSD reserves the right to recover restitution based upon the costs of educational services provided during the period of non-residency. The WRSD also reserves the right to pursue civil and/or criminal legal action(s).

V. EXCEPTIONS

The residency requirements shall not apply to the following:

- A. Students who are entitled to attend the WRSD under the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
- B. Per WRSDC Policy 4240 **Policy Relating to Budget/Finance Tuition**, "...students in grades 8 and 12, who began the school year and have moved out of the District following the October 1 Enrollment report" may continue attending the WRSD school for the grade 8 or grade 12 year.
- C. Students whose parents divorce or separate and share physical custody, provided one custodial parent remains a resident of Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland or Sterling and the student resides at least 50% of the time with the parent who resides in the Wachusett district. (Legal documentation must be provided to school office.)
- D. Under unusual circumstances, families may appeal the decision to the Superintendent of Schools, who may consider the student's educational history and educational continuity. The Superintendent's decision will be final.

VI. NOTIFICATION

The WRSD residency requirements, verification procedures, and consequences of falsifying or misrepresenting residency will be published in the WRSD's Policy Manual, and published in each school handbook.

First Reading: 08/21/17

Second Reading: 09/11/17

WRSDC Policy 6121