



Residency Guidelines 2013-2014

In order to attend the Newton Public Schools, a student must actually reside in the City of Newton. "Residency" is defined as the place where a person has his/her permanent home, i.e., "the place where a person dwells and which is the center of his domestic, social and civil life." [1] For minor children, the legal residency is presumed to be the legal residence of the parent(s) or guardian(s) who has physical custody of the minor child.

The Newton Public Schools reserves the right to request proof of residency when students are initially enrolled. The types of documents requested as proof of residency are stated below. Newton Public Schools also reserves the right to verify residency either at the time of enrollment or during the academic school year. Since family situations can change, the Newton Public Schools reserves the right to request additional, updated information when warranted.

The Assistant Superintendent may initiate an investigation in conjunction with the Youth Officer, including a home visit to verify residency. If a student is found not to be primarily residing in the City of Newton, the student will need to enroll in the school district of the city/town where he/she actually resides. Factors that may trigger an investigation include, but are not limited to, the following: changes in residency not reported immediately to the school the student is enrolled; mail returned to the school; incomplete or contradictory proofs of residency; or anonymous calls reporting suspected residency violations.

Families found to be in violation of these guidelines will face strict penalties, including, but not limited to, immediate dismissal from school; per diem fines for the education and related services accessed as a non-resident which are based on the per pupil cost to the district; and possible legal action.

The following documents will be required as a proof of residency when new students are registered.

P. O. Boxes will not be accepted with the exception of documented court related reasons.

New Home Owners:

- Executed Purchase and Sales Agreement with closing date and mortgage statement. Registration can take place within two weeks of closing/move-in date, **AND**
- Two utility bills (gas, oil, electric, telephone, cable) OR current car insurance statement, Massachusetts car registration and excise tax bill.

Established Home Owners:

- Mortgage statement **AND**
- Two utility bills (gas, oil, electric, telephone, cable) OR current car insurance statement, Massachusetts car registration and excise tax bill.

Renters:

- A formal rental or lease agreement indicating the number and names of tenants. Dates of lease with both landlord and tenant signatures is required. Registration can take place within two weeks of the start of the lease/move-in date, **AND**
- Two utility bills (gas, oil, electric, telephone, cable) OR current car insurance statement, Massachusetts car registration and excise tax bill.
- **Tenant-at-Will** - preregistration forms completed, notarized and returned to Education Center, Room 218, 100 Walnut Street, Newton. Home visit to follow.

Notarized letters will not be accepted in lieu of a lease.

Family in Residence with Friends/Family:

- Pre-registration form(s) completed, notarized and returned to Education Center, Room 218, 100 Walnut Street, Newton. Home visit to follow.

Student (under age 18) Living in Newton with Guardian/Other:

- Students living in Newton without a parent should contact 617-559-6105 to schedule a time to come to the Education Center to determine registration eligibility. Documentation of a completed and notarized Caregiver Affidavit or court documents indicating legal guardianship must be presented at that time. A review of the documents will be conducted to determine if the student is eligible to attend school in Newton. In certain circumstances, students who are living with an adult who is not their parent may be charged tuition.

Nanny/Housekeeper Living in Employer's Home:

- Pre-registration forms completed, notarized and returned to Education Center, Room 218, 100 Walnut Street, Newton. Home visit to follow.

Joint Physical Custody:

- In cases of separation or divorce, physical custody agreements must be presented to the district school (student must reside in Newton at least 50% of the time).

¹ See Teel v. Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District, 13 Mass. App. Ct. 345, 348 (1982)