

Policy JBC: School Admission 

Status: DRAFT

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Student Admissions

The Jackson County School District exists to provide publicly supported education to district residents. A child's residence is the residence of his or her parents or full legal guardian. The Jackson County School District will not recognize or accept general guardianship documents for health and school purposes only. Partial guardianship of the student by a resident within the district will not be recognized as meeting full legal guardianship.

The district will enroll non-resident students only to the extent required by law or under extreme circumstances as appropriate under procedures outlined by the State Board of Education and with the approval of the Jackson County School Board.

Wards of a public welfare department living in foster homes within the district are considered as residents of the district.

District approved exchange students residing in a home within the district are considered as having legal residence. Students who are married, but who have not reached the age of majority, shall be considered majority, provided they have residence within the bounds of the Jackson County School District.

The parent or legal guardian of students attending schools of the Jackson County School District will be required to show proof of residence as required by the Mississippi State Board of Education in the following manner:

Procedure I

Definition of residence for school attendance purposes:

The student physically resides full time, weekdays/nights and weekends, with the parent or guardian, at a place of abode located within the limits of the school district.

1. All schools will require students who are seeking to enroll in the school district to register at the school they are assigned to attend. If registering at the beginning of the school year, parents may submit residency documentation during the days and times designated for Residency Verification. Appointments will be made for parents who need to verify residency at any other time. The school district shall verify the residency of each student.
2. Any new student enrolling or entering the school district or any continuing students whose residence has changed will be required to verify their residence address as herein provided as a part of the registration process. New enrollees to the district will register by appointment as set by the school.
3. The parents or guardians of continuing students whose residency has not changed shall provide proof of residency in person at a time designated by the District. All students, continuing and new to the district must register using the District's Online Registration Process.

Procedure II

Each new student or student whose residence has changed must establish his or her residency in the following manner:

STUDENTS LIVING with PARENTS or GUARDIAN

The parent or legal guardian of a student seeking to enroll must provide the school district with a least two of the items listed below as verification of their address. The parent or legal guardian may satisfy residency requirements by submitting two (2) documents from Category I or one (1) document from Category I and one (1) document from Category II. This requirement may NOT be met with only two (2) documents from Category II. No documents with a post office box as an address will be accepted.

Category I

At least one (1) from the following list displaying proper name and address:

1. Filed Homestead Exemption Application Form
2. Mortgage Statement or property deed; No property tax documents
3. Signed current apartment or home lease (all pages)
4. Current Utility bills; (Per MDE, NO cut-off or disconnect notices); No car/home insurance statements; no cell phone bills; no hunting licenses; Bill must be current, within 30 days of date of registration

Category II

One (1) document from the following list displaying proper name and address:

1. Driver's license or Mississippi State-Issued Identification Card; (Must show current address)
2. Automobile registration; (Must be current year's registration, not expired)
3. Voter registration card
4. Government mailing (Federal, state, or county) within the last 30 days
5. Any other document that will objectively and unequivocally establish the Parent or Guardian resides within the school district-must be approved by an administrator.

At a minimum, the district shall maintain in a file a written instrument identifying the types of documents used to verify each student's residency and copies of any relevant guardianship petition or decree.

When satisfactory evidence is presented that a family with school age children plans to move into the school district, the school administrator, which the student(s) will attend may waive the residency requirement for a period of time, not exceed 30 days, during which time the family will provide transportation for the student(s). In all cases the Superintendent of Education shall be notified in writing from school administrator of the circumstances surrounding the enrollment of such student(s) within one week of admission. If, at the conclusion of the 30-day waiver, the family is unable to provide sufficient and verifiable proof of residency, the school age children will be withdrawn until sufficient and verifiable proof of residency is presented and approved by the Assistant Superintendent.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

When a child is determined to be homeless as defined by the Stewart B. McKinney Act 42 USC Sections 11431(1), and 11432(e) (4) and 11302(a), the school district shall consider and take enrollment action that is in the best interest of the child pursuant to 42 USC 11432(e) (3)

PARENTS/LEGAL GUARDIANS without PERMANENT RESIDENCE (AFFIDAVITS)

1. The non-parent claiming district residency must meet the criteria required of a parent or legal guardian.
2. In addition to providing two proofs of residency, the district resident must provide the district official with an affidavit stating his or her relationship to the parent/guardian, and certify that the parent/guardian will be living at his/her abode full time with the student, and provide documentation fully explaining the reason(s) (other than school attendance zone or district preference) for this arrangement. The local school board or its designee will make the necessary factual determinations under Procedure II.

An Affidavit of Residency for a student(s) will remain in effect for 30 calendar days for which it is filed. Use of an Affidavit of Residency may not be allowed for more than one time during an academic school year or more than once in the student's school tenure in Jackson County School District. If any irregularity regarding the validity of an Affidavit is discovered, that parent/guardian will not be allowed to utilize an Affidavit of Residency option and the Jackson County Resident establishing residency for the parent/guardian will not be allowed to provide residency for any other parent/guardian through an Affidavit. Residency may be verified by the School Resource Officer and/or School Administrator.

STUDENTS LIVING with NON-CUSTODIAL ADULT

Examples of situations where "in loco parentis" authority of an adult should be recognized to establish residency of the minor include but are not limited to the following:

1. Death, serious illness, or incarceration of the child's parent(s) or guardian(s); (documentation required)
2. Abandonment of the child
3. Child abuse or neglect
4. Unstable family relationships or undesirable conditions in the home of the child's parents or guardians having a detrimental effect on the child
5. Students enrolled in recognized exchange programs residing with host families.

Whenever appropriate the person who has assumed responsibility for the care and custody of the child shall be required to obtain legal guardianship of the child. The requirements of Procedure II above are minimum requirements and the school district may require additional documentation and verification at any time.

In cases of guardianship, no temporary enrollment shall be processed except by the Assistant Superintendent of the District and/or by his/her designee and only in emergency circumstances.

Temporary enrollment may be granted for no more than 30 days. If after 30 days, the adult seeking registration of student(s) cannot provide legal guardianship documentation, a referral to the Department of Human Services (DHS) will be made. Pending review of guardianship by DHS, student(s) will remain enrolled in Jackson County School District.

The provisions of this policy do not apply to students who reside outside the school district, but who have legally transferred into the school district.

The requirements of Procedure II are minimum requirements and the school district may require additional documentation and verification at any time.

Supporting Documents



Jackson County Residency Verification



Jackson County Affidavit of Residency Instructions