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District Policy

5111- ELIGIBILITY OF RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT STUDENTS (M)

Section: 5111-12
Date Created: August 2007
Date Edited: November 2020

The Wyckoff Township Board of Education shall admit to its schools, free of charge, persons over five and under twenty years of age, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1, or such younger or older student as is otherwise entitled by law to a free public education.

Eligibility to Attend School

The Board shall admit students eligible to attend school free of charge that are domiciled within the district as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.1 et seq.

A child who is domiciled within the school district and resides with a parent or guardian who is a member of the New Jersey National Guard or a member of the reserve component of the armed forces of the United States who is ordered into active military service in a time of war or national emergency shall be permitted to remain enrolled in the school district in which the child is domiciled at the time of the parent or guardian being ordered into active military service, regardless of where the child resides during the period of active duty. Following the return of the child's parent or guardian from active military service, the child's eligibility to remain enrolled in the school district pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-3.1 shall cease at the end of the current school year unless the child is domiciled in the school district.

The Board shall also admit any student that is kept in the home of a person other than the student's parent, where the person is domiciled in the school district and is supporting the student without remuneration as if the student were his or her own child in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.2 et seq. A student is only eligible to attend school in the district pursuant to this provision if the student's parent files, together with documentation to support its validity, a sworn statement that he or she is not capable of supporting or providing care for the student due to family or economic hardship and the student is not residing with the other person solely for the purpose of receiving a free public education. In addition, the person keeping the student must file, if so required by the district, a sworn statement that he or she is domiciled within the district; is supporting the child without remuneration and intends to do so for a time longer than the school term; will assume all personal obligations for the student relative to school requirements; and a copy of his or her lease if a tenant, or a sworn landlord's statement if residing as a tenant without a written lease. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1(c), any person who fraudulently allows a child of another person to use his or her residence and is not the primary financial supporter of that child and any person who fraudulently claims to have given up custody of his or her child to a person in another district commits a disorderly persons offense.

A student is eligible to attend school free of charge pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1(b) if the student is kept in the home of a person domiciled in the district, other than the parent, where the parent(s) is a member of the New Jersey National Guard or the reserve component of the United States armed forces and has been ordered into active military service in time of war or national emergency. Eligibility under this provision shall cease at the end of the current school year upon the parent's return from active military duty.

A student is eligible to attend school free of charge pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1(d) if the student's parent temporarily resides within the district and elects to have the student attend school in the district of temporary residence, notwithstanding the existence of a domicile elsewhere. Where required by the district, the parent shall demonstrate that such temporary residence is not solely for purposes of a student attending school within the district of temporary residence. Where one of a student's parents temporarily resides in the district while the other is domiciled or temporarily resides elsewhere, eligibility to attend school shall be determined in accordance with the criteria of N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.1(a)1.

A student is eligible to attend school in the district free of charge:

1. If the student's parent moves to another district as the result of being homeless, subject to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2 - Education of Homeless Children;
2. If the student is placed in the home of a district resident by court order (as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.2(e)) or by a society, agency, or institution pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-2;
3. If the student had previously resided in the district and if the parent is a member of the New Jersey National Guard or the United States reserves and has been ordered to active service in time of war or national emergency, resulting in the relocation of the student out of the district, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-3(b). The district shall not be obligated for transportation costs; and
4. If the student resides on federal property within the State pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-7.7 et seq.

Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 or any other law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, a student who moves out of the school district as a result of domestic violence, sexual abuse, or other family crises shall be permitted to remain enrolled in the school district for the remainder of the school year pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.1 and in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.2(b). If the student remains enrolled in the school district for the remainder of the school year, the school district shall provide transportation services to the student, provided the student lives remote from school, and the State shall reimburse the school district for the cost of the transportation services. Nothing in N.J.S.A. 18A-38-1.1 shall be construed to affect the rights of homeless students pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12, N.J.S.A. 18A:7B-12.1, or any other applicable State or Federal law.

A student's eligibility to attend this school shall not be affected by the physical condition of an applicant's housing or his or her compliance with local housing ordinances or terms of lease.

Except as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.3(b)1, immigration/visa status shall not affect eligibility to attend school and the school district shall not condition enrollment in the school district on immigration status. A student's immigration/visa status and their eligibility to attend school shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.3(b) and Regulation 5111.

Proof of Eligibility

The district shall accept forms of documentation from persons attempting to demonstrate a student's eligibility for enrollment in the district in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.4 et seq. The district shall consider the totality of information and documentation offered by an applicant, and shall not deny enrollment based on failure to provide a particular form of documentation, or a particular subset of documents, without regard to other evidence presented.

The district shall not require or request any information or document protected from disclosure by law, or pertaining to criteria that are not a legitimate basis for determining eligibility to attend schools outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.4(d). The Board of Education may consider, in a manner consistent with Federal Law, documents or information referenced in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.4(d) or pertinent parts thereof if voluntarily disclosed by the applicant. The Board of Education may not, directly or indirectly, require or request such disclosure as an actual or implied condition of enrollment.

In the case of a dispute between the school district and the parent of a student in regard to the student's eligibility to enroll in the school district or to remain enrolled in the school district pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1, the school district may request from the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC) the parent's name and address for use in verifying a student's eligibility for enrollment in the school district in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.3. The NJMVC shall disclose to a school district the information requested in accordance with procedures established by the NJMVC. However, the school district shall not condition enrollment in the district on immigration status or on the fact that the NJMVC does not have the name or address of the parent on file. However, these protected documents or information, or pertinent parts thereof, may be voluntarily disclosed by the person(s) seeking enrollment in the district. However, the district may not, directly or indirectly, require or request such disclosure as an actual or implied condition of enrollment.

Initial Assessment and Enrollment

Registration, initial determinations of eligibility, and enrollment will be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.1 et seq. The district shall use registration forms provided by the Commissioner of Education or locally developed forms that are consistent with the forms provided by the Commissioner. A district level school administrator designated by the Superintendent will be available, and clearly identified to applicants, to assist persons who are experiencing difficulties with the registration/enrollment process.

Initial determinations of eligibility shall be made upon presentation of an application for enrollment and enrollment shall take place immediately in all cases except those of clear, uncontested denials. Where an applicant has provided incomplete, unclear or questionable information, enrollment shall take place immediately, but the applicant will be placed on notice that removal will result if defects in the application are not corrected, or an appeal is not filed, in accordance with subsequent notice to be provided pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.2 et seq.

Where an applicant appears ineligible based on the information provided in the initial application, a preliminary written notice of ineligibility shall be provided, including an explanation of the right to appeal to the Commissioner of Education. Enrollment shall take place immediately if the applicant clearly indicates disagreement with the district's determination and an intent to appeal to the Commissioner. A student enrolled pursuant to this provision shall be notified that he or she will be removed, without a hearing before the Board, if no appeal is filed within the twenty-one day period established by N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.

Where enrollment is denied and no intent to appeal is indicated, applicants shall be advised that they shall comply with compulsory education laws. In this case, the parent shall, where the student is between the ages of six and sixteen, be asked to complete a written statement that the student will be attending school in another district, attending a nonpublic school, or receiving instruction elsewhere than at a school pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25. In the event this written statement is not provided, the district level administrator designated by the Superintendent shall notify the school district of actual domicile or residence, or the Department of Children and Families to report a potential instance of "neglect" pursuant to N.J.S.A. 9:6-1, with the student's name, the name(s) of the parent/ resident, the student's address to the extent known, and shall indicate that admission to the district has been denied based on residency or domicile, and that there is no evidence of intent to arrange for the child to attend school or receive instruction elsewhere.

Enrollment or attendance at the school shall not be conditioned on advance payment of tuition when enrollment is denied and an intent to appeal is indicated, or when enrollment is provisional and subject to further review or information. The Board of Education shall ensure the registration process identifies information suggesting an applicant may be homeless so procedures may be implemented in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2, Education of Homeless Children. Enrollment or attendance in the district shall not be denied based upon absence of the certified copy of birth certificate or other proof of a student's identity required within thirty days of initial enrollment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-25.1.

Enrollment in the district shall not be denied based upon absence of student medical information, although actual attendance at school may be deferred as necessitated by compliance with rules regarding immunization of students, N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.

Enrollment in the district, attendance at school, or educational services where attendance in the regular education program appears inappropriate, shall not be denied based upon absence of a student's prior educational record. However, the applicant shall be advised that the initial educational placement of the student may be subject to revision upon receipt of records or further assessment of the student by the district.

Notice of Ineligibility

If the district finds the applicant ineligible to attend the schools of the district pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22, or the application initially submitted is found to be deficient upon subsequent review or investigation, notice shall immediately be provided to the applicant consistent with sample form(s) to be provided by the Commissioner and meets the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4 et seq. Notices shall be in writing, in English and in the native language of the applicant, issued by the Superintendent and directed to the address at which the applicant claims to reside. The Notice of Ineligibility shall be provided and shall include information as required in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.2.

Removal of Currently Enrolled Students

Nothing in N.J.A.C. 6A:22 et seq. and this Policy shall preclude the Board of Education from seeking to identify, through further investigation or periodic requests for current validation of previously determined eligibility status, students enrolled in the district who may be ineligible for continued attendance due to error in initial assessment, changed circumstances or newly discovered information.

When a student, enrolled and attending school in the district based on an initial determination of eligibility, is later determined to be ineligible for continued attendance, the Superintendent may apply to the Board for removal of the student in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.3. No student shall be removed from school unless the parent, adult student or resident keeping an "affidavit student" (as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:22-1.2) as the case may be, has been informed of his or her entitlement to a hearing before the Board of Education. Once the hearing is held, or if the parent, adult student or resident keeping an "affidavit student", as the case may be, does not respond to the Superintendent's notice within the designated time frame or appear for the hearing, the Board shall make a prompt determination of the student's eligibility or ineligibility and shall immediately provide notice thereof in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.2 et seq. The hearings required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22-4.3 et seq. may be conducted by the full Board or a Board Committee, at the discretion of the full Board. If the hearing(s) is conducted by a Board Committee, the Committee shall make a recommendation to the full Board for action. No student may be removed except by vote of the Board taken at a meeting duly convened and conducted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., the Open Public Meetings Act.

Appeal to the Commissioner

The district's determination that a student is ineligible to attend the schools of the district may be appealed to the Commissioner by the parent, adult student or resident keeping an "affidavit student", as the case may be. Such appeals shall proceed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:3-8.1 and shall proceed as a contested case pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1(b)1, appeals of "affidavit student" eligibility determinations must be filed by the resident keeping the student.

Assessment and Calculation of Tuition

If no appeal to the Commissioner is filed following notice of a determination of ineligibility, the Board may assess tuition for any period of a student's ineligible attendance, including the twenty-one day period provided by N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 for appeal to the Commissioner. Tuition will be assessed and calculated in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-6.3 et seq. The district may petition the Commissioner for an order for assessing tuition, enforceable in accordance with N.J.S.A. 2A:58-10, through recording, upon request of the Board pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3-12, on the judgment docket of the Superior Court, Law Division.

If an appeal to the Commissioner is filed and the petitioner does not sustain the burden of demonstrating the student's right to attend the school district, or the petitioner withdraws the appeal, fails to prosecute, or abandons the appeal by any means other than settlement agreeing to waive or reduce tuition, the Commissioner may assess tuition in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:22-6.2(a). Upon the Commissioner's finding that an appeal has been abandoned, the Board of Education may remove the student from school and seek tuition in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:22-6.2.

Nonresident Students

The admission of a nonresident child to school free of charge must be approved by the Board. No child otherwise eligible shall be denied admission on the basis of the child's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation or sex, social or economic status, or disability. The continued enrollment of any nonresident student shall be contingent upon the student's maintenance of good standards of citizenship and discipline.

Children of Nonresident Staff Members

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and the approval of the Board of Education, children of nonresident full time staff members under contract to the Wyckoff Board of Education or the Ramapo Indian Hills High School District may be admitted to the schools of the district. This arrangement is only offered if the educational program of such children can be provided within existing curriculum and facilities. Special Education students may not be enrolled in the district under this provision. The tuition rate for qualifying staff members shall be 20% of the total, per student cost of educating a regular education student. If a staff member in either district is no longer under contract, children enrolled in the district are no longer eligible to attend district schools. A written request for permission to enroll a child of a nonresident staff member, including school preference, must be submitted to and approved in writing by the Superintendent at least thirty (30) days prior to admittance. Transportation and related costs will be paid by the staff member. Annually, the nonresident staff member must submit a letter to the Superintendent requesting his/her child to be approved for admittance in the district in the subsequent school year. All such letters must be received by the Superintendent by May 15 of the current school year in order for the child to be considered for admittance in the following school year. The Superintendent will notify the nonresident staff member of the decision including school and class placement in accordance with policy 5120, in writing, no later than June 15 of the current school year. Payment for tuition must be arranged through the business office prior to enrollment. Children must remain in good standing in order to continue to attend district schools.

Physical Condition of Residence

Families with children domiciled in the school district and attending the Wyckoff Public Schools, who need to reside outside the district due to the physical condition of their home, must obtain Board of Education approval to continue attending the district schools free of charge for a period of 18 months with proof of inhabitation. After 18 months, a one-time extension for a period of 6 months can be obtained and will necessitate additional documentation. The Board of Education will assess tuition for students after the initial 24 month period. The Board of Education will require proof of occupancy when the residence is re-occupied.

Residence Undergoing Renovations

Families with children domiciled in the school district for a minimum of 12 months and attending the Wyckoff Public Schools prior to major home renovations where the family must vacate the premises, must obtain Board of Education approval to continue attending the district schools free of charge for a period of 18 months with proof of building permits/documentation. After 18 months, a one-time extension for a period of 6 months can be obtained and will necessitate additional proof of building status and progress. The Board of Education will assess tuition for students after the initial 24 month period. The Board of Education will require proof of occupancy when residence is re-occupied.

Children Who Anticipate Moving to or from the District

Regularly enrolled students whose parent(s) move out of the district may be permitted to complete the school year in Wyckoff, upon approval of the Superintendent and Board, with a tuition charge commencing on the 91st calendar day after the move and continuing through the end of the school year. Transportation must be provided by the parent(s).

Students enrolled in special education programs will be considered on an individual basis by the Superintendent, with recommendations from the Child Study Team.

Families moving into the Wyckoff School District in the month of September may have their child/children admitted to the schools with proof of a fully executed contract or lease on the residence upon agreement to pay tuition for such period that the child/children are not domiciled within the District. Tuition will be assessed if the child/children are not domiciled in the district prior to opening day. Such tuition is to be collected in advance for each month or part thereof that the child/children are not domiciled within the District. Should occupancy of the new residence occur on or before the 30th of September, the Board of Education may reimburse the student from school and seek tuition in accordance with the month of September. Should occupancy fail to occur by the 30th of September, tuition for each following month will be due prior to the 1st of the month, starting on the 1st of October. A monthly tuition will be assessed until residency is established.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth herein, the responsibilities and obligations of the Wyckoff Township Board of Education shall not be greater than those set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.1 et seq. as such may be construed by courts of competent jurisdiction.

F-1 Visa Students

F-1 Visa students will not be admitted to this school district.

J-1 Visa Students

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N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 et seq.; 18A:38-1.3; 18A:38-3; 18A:38-3.1
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.3; 6A:17-2.1 et seq.; 6A:22-12.1 et seq.; 6A:22-1.1 et seq.
8 CFR 214.3

Adopted: 27 August 2007
Revised: 12 March 2012
21 April 2014
29 August 2016
20 May 2019
16 November 2020

