

CHAPTER 22

STUDENT RESIDENCY

Authority

N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1.

Source and Effective Date

R.2004 d.377, effective September 10, 2004.
See: 36 N.J.R. 2279(a), 36 N.J.R. 4448(a).

Chapter Expiration Date

Chapter 22, Student Residency, expires on September 10, 2009.

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 22, Student Residency, was recodified by R.2004 d.377, effective October 4, 2004, from Subchapter 2, Entitlement to Attend School Based on Domicile or Residency in District. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

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SUBCHAPTER 1. PURPOSE, SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

6A:22-1.1 Purpose and scope

(a) The rules in this chapter have been adopted to implement the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1(a) through (e). Other than by reference to the applicable statutes and rules, the chapter does not address attendance at school by non-residents, children of military parents, or persons qualifying under N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1(f), which provides for attendance by homeless students and is implemented through N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2, Education of Homeless Children.

(b) The provisions of this chapter shall apply to students over five and under 20 years of age pursuant to N.J.A.C. 18A:38-1, and to such younger or older students as are otherwise entitled by law to free public education.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 6A:28-2.1 and amended by R.2004 d.377, effective October 4, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 2279(a), 36 N.J.R. 4448(a).

Substituted "chapter" for "subchapter" throughout and amended the N.J.A.C. reference.

6A:22-1.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the content clearly indicates otherwise.

"Affidavit student" means a student attending, or seeking to attend, school in a district pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1(b) and N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.1(a)2.

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Education or his or her designee.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 6A:28-2.2 and amended by R.2004 d.377, effective October 4, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 2279(a), 36 N.J.R. 4448(a).

Rewrote the introductory paragraph and added a N.J.A.C. reference in "Affidavit student".

SUBCHAPTER 2. DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES

6A:22-2.1 Adoption by district board of education

(a) Each district board of education shall adopt written policies and procedures incorporating the requirements of this chapter and shall make copies available to parents and the public.

(b) In all such policies and procedures, a district board of education shall construe the provisions of this chapter liberally so as to effectuate the right of students to a free public education.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 6A:28-2.3 and amended by R.2004 d.377, effective October 4, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 2279(a), 36 N.J.R. 4448(a).

Inserted references to policies and procedures and substituted "chapter" for "subchapter" throughout; in (b), inserted "of education" following "district board".

6A:22-2.2 Discretionary admission of nonresident students

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit the discretion of a district board of education to admit nonresident students, or the ability of a nonresident student to attend school, with or without payment of tuition, with the consent of the district board of education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-3(a).

New Rule, R.2004 d.377, effective October 4, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 2279(a), 36 N.J.R. 4448(a).

SUBCHAPTER 3. ELIGIBILITY TO ATTEND SCHOOL

6A:22-3.1 Students domiciled within the school district

(a) A student over five and under 20 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 free public education, is eligible to attend school in a school district if the student is domiciled within the district.

1. A student is domiciled in the school district when he or she is living with a parent or legal guardian whose permanent home is located within the school district. A home is permanent when the parent or guardian intends to return to it when absent and has no present intent of moving from it, notwithstanding the existence of homes or residences elsewhere.

i. Where a student's parents are domiciled within different school districts, and where there is no court order or written agreement between the parents designating the school district for school attendance, the student's domicile is the school district of the parent with whom the student lives for the majority of the school year, regardless of which parent has legal custody.

ii. Where a student's physical custody is shared on an equal-time, alternating week/month or other similar basis such that the student is not living with one parent for a majority of the school year, and where there is no court order or written agreement between the parents designating the school district for school attendance, the student's domicile is the present domicile of the parent with whom the student resided on the last school day prior to October 16 preceding the date of the application.

(1) Where such a student resided with both parents, or with neither parent, on the last school day prior to the preceding October 16, the student's domicile is the domicile of the parent with whom the parents indicate the student will be residing on the last school day prior to the ensuing October 16. Where the parents do not designate, or cannot agree upon, the student's likely residence as of that date, or if on that date the student is not residing with the parent previously indicated, the student shall attend school in the school district where the parent with whom the student is actually living as of the last school day prior to October 16 is domiciled.

(2) No school district shall be required to provide transportation for a student residing outside the school district for part of the school year, other than that based upon the home of the parent domiciled within the district to the extent required by law, as a result of being the district of domicile for school attendance purposes pursuant to the provisions of this subsection.

2. A student is domiciled in the school district when he or she has reached the age of 18 or is emancipated from the care and custody of a parent or legal guardian and has established a permanent home within the district. A home is permanent when the student intends to return to it when absent and has no present intent of moving from it, notwithstanding the existence of homes or residences elsewhere.

3. A student is domiciled in the school district when the student has come from outside the State and is living with a person domiciled in the district who will be applying for legal guardianship of the student upon expiration of the six-month "waiting period" of State residency required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:34-30(e) and 2A:34-31. However, any such student may later be subject to removal proceedings if application for legal guardianship is not made within a reasonable period of time following expiration of the mandatory waiting period.

4. A student is domiciled in the school district when his or her parent or legal guardian resides within the district on an all-year-round basis for one year or more, notwithstanding the existence of a domicile elsewhere.

5. A student is domiciled in the school district if the Division of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human Services is acting as the student's legal guardian and has placed the student in the district.

(b) Where a student's dwelling is located within two or more school districts, or bears a mailing address that does not reflect the dwelling's physical location within a municipality, the district of domicile for school attendance purposes shall be that of the municipality to which the resident pays the majority of his or her property tax, or to which the majority of property tax for the dwelling in question is paid by the owner of a multi-unit dwelling.

1. Where property tax is paid in equal amounts to two or more municipalities, and where there is no established assignment for students residing in the affected dwellings, the district of domicile for school attendance purposes shall be determined through assessment of individual proofs as provided pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:28-2.5.

2. This provision shall not preclude the attendance of currently enrolled students who were permitted to attend school in the school district prior to the provision's initial promulgation on December 17, 2001.

Recodified in part from N.J.A.C. 6A:28-2.4 and amended by R.2004 d.377, effective October 4, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 2279(a), 36 N.J.R. 4448(a).

In (a), substituted "any student domiciled within the school district who is" for "the following persons"; inserted "school" preceding "district" throughout; redesignated paragraphs throughout; in new (a)2, inserted "has reached the age of 18 or" preceding "emancipated" and deleted "independently" preceding "established a permanent"; added (b)2.

6A:22-3.2 Other students eligible to attend school

(a) A student over five and under 20 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 free public education, is eligible to attend school in the school district if that student is kept in the home of a person other than the student's parent or legal guardian, 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.

1. A student is not eligible to attend school in a school district pursuant to this provision unless:

i The student's parent or guardian has filed, 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 that the student is not residing with the other person solely for the purpose of receiving a free public education; and

ii. The person keeping the student has filed, if so required by the district board of education:

(1) A sworn statement that he or she is domiciled within the school district, is supporting the child without remuneration and intends to do so for a longer time than the school term, and will assume all personal obligations for the student relative to school requirements; and

(2) A copy of his or her lease if a tenant, or a sworn landlord's statement if residing as a tenant without written lease.

2. A student shall not be deemed ineligible under this paragraph because required sworn statement(s) cannot be obtained, where evidence is presented that the underlying requirements of the law are being met notwithstanding the inability of the resident or student to obtain the sworn statement(s).

3. A student shall not be deemed ineligible under this paragraph where evidence is presented that the student has no home or possibility of school attendance other than with a non-parent district resident who is acting as the sole caretaker and supporter of the student.

4. A student shall not be deemed ineligible under this subsection solely because a parent or legal guardian gives gifts or makes limited contributions, financial or otherwise, toward the welfare of the student, provided that the resident keeping the student receives no payment or other remuneration from the parent or guardian for regular maintenance of the student.

5. 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.

(b) A student over five and under 20 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 free public education, is eligible to attend school in the school district if the student is kept in the home of a person domiciled in the district, other than the parent or legal guardian, where the parent or legal guardian 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 the United States armed forces in time of war or national emergency.

1. Eligibility under this subsection shall cease at the end of the current school year upon the parent or legal guardian's return from active military duty.

(c) A student over five and under 20 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 free public education, is eligible to attend school in the school district if the student's parent or legal guardian temporarily resides within the district, notwithstanding the existence of a domicile elsewhere.

1. Where required by the district board of education, the parent or legal guardian shall demonstrate that such temporary residence is not solely for purposes of a student's attending school within the school district of temporary residence;

2. Where one of a student's parents temporarily resides in a school 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)1i. However, no student shall be eligible to attend school based upon a parent's temporary residence in a district unless the parent demonstrates, if so required by the district board of education, that such

temporary residence is not solely for purposes of a student's attending school within the district.

(d) A student over five and under 20 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 free public education, is eligible to attend school in the school district if the student's parent or guardian 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.

(e) A student over five and under 20 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 free public education, is eligible to attend school in the school district if the student is placed in the home of a district resident by court order pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-2.

(f) A student over five and under 20 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 free public education, is eligible to attend school in the school district if the student had previously resided in the district and if the parent or guardian 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 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-3(b).

(g) A student over five and under 20 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 free public education, is eligible to attend school in the school district if the student resides on Federal property within the State pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-7.7 et seq.

Recodified N.J.A.C. 6A:28-2.4(a)2 and amended by R.2004 d.377, effective October 4, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 2279(a), 36 N.J.R. 4448(a).

Rewrote the section.

6A:22-3.3 Housing and immigration status

(a) The physical condition of an applicant's housing, or an applicant's compliance with local housing ordinances or terms of lease, shall not affect eligibility to attend school.

(b) Except as set forth in (b)1 below, immigration/visa status shall not affect eligibility to attend school. Any student over five and under 20 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 free public education, who is domiciled in the district or otherwise eligible to attend school there pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.2 shall be enrolled without regard to, or inquiry concerning, immigration status.

1. The provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 and this chapter shall not apply to students who have obtained, or are seeking to obtain, a Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status (INS form I-20) from the district in order to apply to the INS for issuance of a visa for the purpose of limited study on a tuition basis in a United States public secondary school ("F-1" visa).

i. Districts permitting the attendance of F-1 students may adopt policies and procedures requiring advance payment of tuition, or entry into binding agreements for payment of tuition, before the district will provide the requested I-20 form.

Recodified in part from N.J.A.C. 6A:28-2.4(b) through (d) and amended by R.2004 d.377, effective October 4, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 2279(a), 36 N.J.R. 4448(a).

Rewrote the section.

6A:22-3.4 Proof of eligibility

(a) A district board of education shall accept a combination of any of the following or similar forms of documentation from persons attempting to demonstrate a student's eligibility for enrollment in the school district:

1. Property tax bills, deeds, contracts of sale, leases, mortgages, signed letters from landlords and other evidence of property ownership, tenancy or residency;

2. Voter registrations, licenses, permits, financial account information, utility bills, delivery receipts, and other evidence of personal attachment to a particular location;

3. Court orders, State agency agreements and other evidence of court or agency placements or directives;

4. Receipts, bills, cancelled checks, insurance claims or payments, and other evidence of expenditures demonstrating personal attachment to a particular location, or, where applicable, to support of the student;

5. Medical reports, counselor or social worker assessments, employment documents, unemployment claims, benefit statements, and other evidence of circumstances demonstrating, where applicable, family or economic hardship, or temporary residency;

6. Affidavits, certifications and sworn attestations pertaining to statutory criteria for school attendance, from the parent, legal guardian, person keeping an "affidavit student," adult student, person(s) with whom a family is living, or others as appropriate;

7. Documents pertaining to military status and assignment; and

8. Any other business record or document issued by a governmental entity.

(b) A district board of education may accept forms of documentation not listed in (a) above, and shall not exclude from consideration any documentation or information presented by a person seeking to enroll a student.

(c) A district board of education 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.