

POLICY

Board of Education

Bernards Township

File Code: M 5111

ELIGIBILITY OF NONRESIDENT PUPILS

The Bernards Township Board of Education will admit children of school age who reside in our District and will admit other children in accordance with law and this policy. The Board reserves the right to verify the residency or anticipated residency of any person who claims eligibility for enrollment.

The admission of any nonresident child must be approved by the Board. No child otherwise eligible shall be denied admission on the basis of the child's race, creed, color, national origin, gender, or handicap. The continued enrollment of any nonresident pupil shall be contingent upon the pupil's maintenance of good standards of citizenship and discipline.

NONDOMICILED CHILDREN RESIDING WITH DISTRICT RESIDENT OTHER THAN PARENT

A child of school age who resides with a District resident other than his or her parent or guardian will be admitted to school provided the following sworn statements are executed and filed with the Board Secretary:

- The statement of the child's parent that he or she is not supporting the child, accompanied by appropriate documentation in validation of that statement, and
- The statement of the District resident that he or she is a resident of our District, supports the child gratis, will assume all personal obligations for the child, and intends to keep and support the child beyond the end of the school year. The statement must be supported by evidence of District residency.
- A statement of the child's parent(s) that one or both parents are not capable of supporting or caring for the pupil and that they are not moving the pupil into the District solely to take advantage of the free public education.

The Bernards Township Board of Education reserves the right to verify the validity of either statement and may, if validity is in doubt, institute a proceeding before the Commissioner of Education for a determination of the child's eligibility for admission. The child shall remain enrolled in our District pending the outcome of any such proceeding.

If the Board has reason to believe that a District resident has fraudulently allowed a child of another person to use his or her residence and is not the primary financial supporter of that child or that a parent has fraudulently claimed to have given up custody of his or her child, the Board may report any such person to municipal authorities for prosecution as disorderly persons.

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HOMELESS CHILDREN

The Board will accept responsibility for the educational placement of a homeless child of school age when our school District is determined to be the child's district of residence or when the child temporarily resides in our District and no New Jersey district of residence can be determined, pursuant to law and rules of the State Board of Education. Such placement will be made in the best interest of the child and may be in our District, the district of the child's last attendance, or the district in which the child temporarily resides.

The Director of Pupil Personnel Services will be liaison for the education of homeless children. The liaison shall develop a system to insure that any homeless child temporarily residing in our District is appropriately enrolled and attending school and shall communicate with other districts in the interests of homeless children.

CHILDREN WHO ANTICIPATE MOVING TO OUR DISTRICT

Families who reside outside the District but who intend to move into the District within 90 days shall be allowed to enroll their children without a charge for tuition. The family must submit proof of intent to move within the District to the Superintendent. This proof shall be a copy of a signed purchase or lease contract for residential housing. If the contract or lease is terminated for any reason, the Superintendent must be notified and the student must make formal application to remain as a tuition paying non-resident student. If the family move into the District is delayed beyond the 90 calendar day limit, the student may remain in school on a tuition paying basis until residency is achieved.

Parents of non-resident pupils who anticipate becoming residents within 90 days of enrollment shall be charged with a deposit equal to a tuition payment for 90 days at the time of enrollment. This deposit shall be guaranteed by promissory note. The deposit shall be refunded if residency occurs during the 90 day period. Otherwise, this deposit shall be credited against any tuition charges.

CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS HAVE MOVED FROM OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT

A regularly enrolled resident student who becomes a non-resident during the school year may complete the school year on a pro-rated tuition basis subject to the following rules and exceptions:

- The student must be in good standing in academics and conduct as determined by the Superintendent.

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- Students whose families move outside the District after April 1 shall pay no tuition unless the student applies for enrollment in a future year.
- A regularly enrolled student who becomes a non-resident during his eleventh grade year will be permitted to complete the eleventh and twelfth grade on a tuition basis.
- Students who are in the twelfth grade and whose families move outside the District after the start of the third marking period shall pay no tuition.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

A student from another country visiting Bernards Township as part of a formal exchange program may attend our schools as a provisional student if he is staying in the home of a resident tax-payer. In order to qualify, the student must submit a letter or other documentation from the sponsoring organization certifying his exchange status and the student must enroll for more than one month. Foreign students who do not meet these conditions may attend if they are individually recommended by the Superintendent and if the Board approves.

CHILDREN OF STAFF MEMBERS

Children of staff members shall be permitted to attend Bernards Township Schools, tuition free, in all grades. A child so enrolled shall be permitted to complete the school year despite cessation of employment for any reason. Children in grades K-5 will not be enrolled in the school which their parent works. Whenever possible children in grades 6-12 will not be scheduled for a class which their parent teaches.

A tuition free education will be provided as long as the cost of educating the specific child does not exceed the average per pupil expenditure for educating resident students at that grade level. If the cost for this child exceeds that limit, the child may be withdrawn at the end of the current marking period or the staff member may agree to pay the difference in per pupil costs.

The Superintendent shall report annually to the Board on the number of students being educated under this provision. All approvals are subject to annual review and renewal.

LEARNING DISABLED STUDENTS

Non-resident students classified by a Child Study Team as learning disabled may be enrolled in a special education class on a tuition basis if space exists. The tuition will be set by contract between the districts or by the State of New Jersey and will be subject to approval by the sending district's Board of Education and our Board of Education.

OTHER NONRESIDENT CHILDREN

Other nonresident children, otherwise eligible for attendance, may be admitted to school in this District with payment of tuition if their admission is warranted by the inaccessibility of school in their home district, the singular availability of an appropriate educational program in this District, the avoidance of transfer and readmission of a child whose legal custody is shared by a parent residing in this District, or other good cause.

TUITION

The tuition charge shall cover the cost of education. The annual tuition rate and payment schedule shall be determined by the Business Administrator, in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Education formula approved by the Superintendent and communicated to the Board prior to September 15 each year for confirming resolution.

The student, parent or other legal guardian must make scheduled tuition payments. Failure to do so, shall constitute grounds for contract termination.

Acceptance is on a year-to-year basis as space exists. Under ordinary circumstances a student, once accepted, will be permitted to remain, if his performance and conduct are satisfactory, until the completion of his twelfth grade year.

TERMINATION OF TUITIONAL ATTENDANCE

The contractual arrangements with students not meeting expected levels of performance or behavior may be terminated by the Board at any time upon the recommendation of the Principal and Superintendent. Each student's performance shall be evaluated annually and a recommendation made to terminate or to offer to continue enrollment. If a student is terminated for any reason, the balance of any pre-paid tuition shall be refunded within 15 days.

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

N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.3.; 6A:17-2.1 et seq.; 6A:28-2.1 et seq.

ADOPTED: February 25, 2008