

<i>Policy</i>	<i>Title</i> <b>NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS</b>	<i>Code</i> <b>JECB</b>
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***HOLLISTON***

The Holliston School Committee may choose from time to time to admit non-resident students to the Holliston Public Schools as provided by Section 12B of Chapter 76 of the Massachusetts General Laws, otherwise known as the “School Choice Law.” Whenever the Committee chooses to so admit non-resident students, it will adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Admission of non-resident students pursuant to the School Choice Law will be limited to those positions which the Committee determines to be available in various grades or classes of the Holliston Public Schools. In no event shall non-resident students be admitted if such admission would cause class sizes or pupil-teacher ratios to exceed standards acceptable to the Committee in its sole discretion. Also, admission to the Holliston Public Schools does not guarantee placement in a particular program such as Montessori or French Immersion or a specific course.
2. When the Committee chooses to admit non-resident students pursuant to the School Choice Law, the superintendent or his/her designee will establish a date by which applications for admission must be received. This period of time will end no earlier than three calendar days after the publication of the notice required in accordance with No. 3 below.
3. The Committee will cause to be published, in a newspaper of daily circulation in the towns and cities immediately surrounding the Town of Holliston, and will post conspicuously in each public school in Holliston a notice of its intent to accept applications for admission of non-resident students in accordance with School Choice Law. This notice shall set forth any time and date by which applications must be received by the Superintendent of Schools and provide an address where interested students or parents may obtain application forms.
4. Applications for admission to Holliston Public Schools as a non-resident student in accordance with the School Choice Law shall be made upon application form prepared by or acceptable to the Committee or its designee.
5. Non-resident students enrolled in or admitted for enrollment in the Holliston Public Schools as of the effective date of this policy shall be deemed to have been accepted as non-resident students attending pursuant to the School Choice Law. Upon the closing of the deadline for applications for admission of non-resident students, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall conduct a lottery to determine the order, subject to provisions of No. 6 below, in which applicants shall be selected to fill positions determined by the Committee to be available in various grades or classes.
6. Preference in admission shall be given in the following order for positions determined to be available by the Committee to children, step-children and foster children of:
  - a. Parents or guardians of non-resident students attending the Holliston Public Schools;
  - b. Parents or guardians of non-resident students selected for admission to the Holliston Public Schools.
7. If positions remain available after the deadline for submitting applications established by the Committee in accordance with Section 5, such positions shall be filled in the order in which applications have been and are thereafter received.
8. Transportation of non-resident students to and from school shall be the responsibility of these students and their families. **However, subject to availability, on existing in-town routes, school choice students may be offered transportation within Holliston for a fee.**

9. The principal shall determine the grade and program (Montessori, French Immersion, etc.) into which a non-resident student shall be eligible to enroll.
10. Parents of non-resident students eligible to enroll under the School Choice Law must decide within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the Superintendent of Schools, whether or not they will attend the Holliston School System. The length of time as determined by the superintendent will be no less than three (3) work days nor longer than twenty (20) work days depending on the time of year when notice of eligibility to enroll is given.
11. Children whose parents or guardians wish them to enter the Holliston School System at the beginning or during the school year and who intend to establish residence in Holliston may apply for enrollment under the following conditions:
  - a. The application for such attendance must be made by the parent or guardian in writing to the Superintendent of Schools. Such application must include evidence of a legally binding commitment to reside in Holliston (i.e. signed purchase and sales agreement and evidence of bank funding).
  - b. Evidence of a legally binding commitment to reside in Holliston (i.e. signed purchase and sales agreement and evidence of bank funding) shall be submitted prior to the student's enrollment.
  - c. If positions remain available in the requested grade(s) and do not push class sizes over the accepted limit as determined by the principal of the school, the student may be allowed to attend school and will not be subject to the School Committee's School Choice Policy nor be listed as a student pursuant to the School Choice Law, subject to the approval of the superintendent or his or her designee.
  - d. If the student does not establish residency within the time set forth pursuant to Section above, the student will not be allowed to attend the Holliston Schools.
  - e. The length of time that a student may be enrolled under the provision of this section shall not exceed two (2) months.
12. Change of residence for non school-choice students: Any student in grades K-11 who moves to another town will be expected to change enrollment to the new school. However, any student whose legal residence has changed to another town or city outside of Holliston on or after March 1 of that same school year and is not a school choice student, who wishes to finish the school year in the Holliston schools, may request permission from the Superintendent of Schools or designee.

The responsibility lies with the family or legal guardian of the student to inform the superintendent's office in writing in advance of a change in legal residence to outside of Holliston, no matter when during the year such a change of residence occurs. The letter must include the student's grade in school and anticipated move date.

Failure to notify the superintendent and receive permission ahead of the move could place the student's registration status in jeopardy and potentially result in removal from the Holliston School System.

Transportation of the student shall be the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

13. Notwithstanding the School Committee's right to vote annually whether or not to enroll students under the provision of the School Choice Law and to determine the number of non-resident students to be enrolled in the various grades, the School Committee recognizes the importance of trying to minimize the disruption and to provide educational continuity to students.

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Legal References:	M.G.L. Section 12B Chapter 76 (School Choice Law)
Policy Cross Reference:	EB (Entrance Age); JF (School Admissions), AC (Non-Discrimination)
Procedure Reference:	