

Title: Resident Students

Under Iowa law, all children are entitled to an education in the public schools of Iowa free of personal payment of tuition until their graduation from a four-year approved high school or until they reach the age of 21, with exceptions as noted below.

A student is restricted in his right to attend school free of tuition to the District of his residence, unless otherwise provided by statute. This includes the right of homeless students to access a free public education. Ordinarily, the legal residence of a minor is the same as that of his parents; but a minor may have a residence for school purposes that is not the same as that of his parents. Where the residence of the parents would unreasonably deprive a child of school privileges, another school residence may be established, provided the child's residence is established for the sake of the child's having a home and not primarily for the sake of obtaining a free education.

Each case involving the bona fide residence of a student may be decided upon its individual merits by the Board of Directors, subject to appeal to the Iowa Department of Education.

“Residence” means “the place, abode, or dwelling” of a person.

Resident students may attend the school free of tuition if:

- they are actual residents of the District, and are between the ages of five and 21;
- they have been designated residents of the District by a court;
- they are wards of guardians or other persons who stand in loco parentis, and who live in the District;
- they are foreign exchange students living with a family within the District and attending school within the District;
- they are children of state employees who are residents of the District, including the minor children of alien parents;
- they are honorably discharged members of the military for as many months after their 21st birthday as they have spent in U.S. military service.
- they are actively engaged in a high school program at the time of their 21st birthday and need additional time to complete diploma requirements;

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- they are actively engaged in a special education program with an individual education plan requiring programming past their 21st birthday.

A student who has reached the age of 18 and is still eligible to attend an Iowa secondary school may declare his own residence independent of the residence of his parents.

Approved: Apr. 1, 1986

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