

Enrollment

School Board Policy: JBA, JBB, JBC

General Eligibility

1. This school district shall admit into its free public schools all minor-age children (MS Code ' 1-3-27) and all compulsory school age children as defined by in MS Code ' 37-13-91 (2) (f).
2. Each minor child shall attend school in the school district of his/her residence unless legally transferred to another school district by the school board pursuant to MS Code ' 37-15-29.
3. Except for those students who have been legally transferred, each minor child seeking to enroll in this school district shall be a school district resident. All students shall register at the school they are assigned to attend. ' 37-15-29; ' 37-15-13
4. Any new student enrolling in this school district or any continuing student whose residence has changed must be accompanied to enrollment by a parent, guardian, adult custodian or adult agent of a social service agency of the district who shall register the minor child for admission, except students who have been legally transferred. The accompanying adult shall be required to verify his/her residence. ' 37-15-11
5. The person in charge of each school shall require any child enrolling in kindergarten or grade 1 to present a certified birth certificate and valid immunization certificate upon enrollment. No child will be allowed to enroll in or attend any school without a certified birth certificate or valid immunization certificate. ' 37-15-1
6. Subject to the provisions of MS Code 37-15-9, subsection (3), [see item 7 below] any child who transfers from an out-of-state public or private school in which that state's law provides for a first grade or kindergarten enrollment date subsequent to September 1, shall be allowed to enroll in this school district at the same grade level as their prior out-of-state enrollment, if:
 - a. The parent, legal guardian or custodian of such child was a legal resident of the state from which the child is transferring;
 - b. The out-of-state school from which the child is transferring is duly accredited by that state's appropriate accrediting authority;
 - c. Such child was legally enrolled in a public or private school for a minimum of four (4) weeks in the previous state; and
 - d. The superintendent of schools of this school district has determined that the child was making satisfactory educational progress in the previous state. ' 37-15-9

7. When any child applies for admission or enrollment in any public school in the state, the parent, guardian or child shall indicate on the school registration form if the enrolling child has been expelled from any public or private school or is currently a party to an expulsion proceeding. If it is determined from the child's cumulative record or application for admission or enrollment that the child has been expelled, the school district may deny the student admission and enrollment until the superintendent of the school or his designee has reviewed the child's cumulative record and determined that the child has participated in successful rehabilitative efforts including, but not limited to, progress in an alternative school or similar program. If the child is a party to an expulsion proceeding, the child may be admitted to a public school pending final disposition of the expulsion proceeding. If the expulsion proceeding results in the expulsion of the child, the public school may revoke such admission to school. If the child was expelled or is a party to an expulsion proceeding for an act involving violence, weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs or other activity that may result in expulsion, the school district shall not be required to grant admission or enrollment to the child before one (1) calendar year after the date of the expulsion. ' 37-15-9 (3)
8. No child shall be allowed to enroll in or attend any school without a valid immunization certificate. ' 37-15-1 Valid certificates include:
 - a. Form 121 -- Certificate of Compliance
 - b. Form 121-A -- Medical Exemption Certificate
 - c. Form 121-T -- Temporary Compliance Certificate

The Temporary Compliance Certificate, Form 121-T, is not valid after the date shown. After that date, the principal shall deny school attendance by such child unless or until the principal is furnished another Temporary Compliance Certificate, Form 121 T, or a Certificate of Compliance, Form 121, or a Medical Exemption Certificate, Form 121-A.

Residence Verification Procedure

Definition of Residence

Definition of residence for school attendance purposes: The student physically resides full-time weekdays/nights and weekends at a place of abode located within the limits of this school district.

Students living with parent(s) or guardian(s)

The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a student seeking to enroll must provide this school district with at least two of the items numbered 1 through 10 below as verification of their address, except that a document with a post office box as an address will not be accepted.

1. Filed Homestead Exemption Application form
2. Mortgage documents or property deed
3. Apartment or home lease
4. Utility bills

5. Driver's license
6. Voter precinct identification
7. Automobile registration
8. Any other documentation that will objectively and unequivocally establish that the parent or guardian resides within the school district
9. Certified copy of filed petition for guardianship if pending and final decree when granted

Homeless Children

When a child is determined to be homeless as defined by the Stewart B. McKinney Act 42 USC Section 11431 (1), 11432 (e) and 11302 (a), this school district shall consider and take enrollment action that is in the best interest of the child pursuant to 42 USC 11432 (e) (3).

Students living with adults other than parents or legal guardians

1. The non-parent(s) claiming district residency must meet the criteria of subparagraph (a) (1) through (10) above, required of a parent or legal guardian.
2. The district resident must provide the school with an affidavit (see last page of this policy) stating his or her relationship to the student, and that the student will be living at his/her abode full time, and provide documentation fully explaining the reason(s) (other than school attendance zone or district preference) for this arrangement. The superintendent or his/her designee will make the necessary factual determinations as required under this policy. Examples of situations where "in loco parentis" authority of an adult will be recognized to establish residency of the minor include but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Death or serious illness of the child's parent(s) or guardian(s);
 - b. Abandonment of the child;
 - c. Child abuse or neglect;
 - d. Unstable family relationships or undesirable conditions in the home of the child's parents or guardians having a detrimental effect on the child;
 - e. Students enrolled in recognized exchange programs residing with host families.
3. Whenever appropriate the person who has assumed responsibility for the care and custody of the child shall be encouraged to obtain legal guardianship of the child.

Students of Military Families

1. A pupil complies with the residency requirements for school attendance in a school district if the parent of the pupil is transferred to, or is pending transfer to, a military installation with this state while on active military duty pursuant to an official military order. A school district shall accept an application for enrollment and course registration by electronic means for a pupil who meets these requirements, including enrollment in a specific school or program within the school district.
2. The parent of a pupil who meets these requirements shall provide proof of residence to the school district within ten (10) days after the published date provided on official documentation.

3. The parent may use the address of any of the following as proof of residence.
 - a. A temporary on-base billeting facility.
 - b. A purchased or leased home or apartment.
 - c. Any federal government housing or off-base military housing, including off-base military housing that may be provided through a public-private venture.

The school district may require additional documentation and verification at any time.

At the minimum, this school district shall maintain in a file a written instrument identifying the types of documents used to verify each student's residency and copies of any relevant guardianship petition or decree.

The provisions of this policy do not apply to students who reside outside the school district, but who have legally transferred into the school district.

Any court ordered procedure shall take precedent over any procedure contained herein.

Transfer Students

1. No student is to be enrolled in this school district until any and all questions regarding residence or immunizations have been resolved.
2. Students suspended or expelled from another school or school district may not be allowed to enroll. ' 37-15-9 (3)
3. No pupil shall be permanently enrolled in a school in this school district who formerly was enrolled in another school within the state or outside the state until the cumulative record of said pupil shall have been received from the school from which he transferred. Should such record have become lost or destroyed, then it shall be the duty of the superintendent or principal of the school where the pupil last attended school to initiate a new record. ' 37-15-9 (1)
4. Unless a transfer student is tested in the manner provided in paragraph 5 below, the student will be permanently enrolled and placed in a grade or class based on an official transcript of credits from the last school attended. ' 37-15-33
5. All students seeking to transfer from any school, public, private or home school, within or outside of the boundaries of the State of Mississippi, to this school district shall be required to take a standardized test to determine the grade and class to which the pupil shall be assigned at the time of pupil transfer.

A licensed Psychometrist, contracted by CSD, shall administer the test or tests to such pupil or pupils as shall apply for transfer to such public school. Such test or tests shall be administered within thirty days after the filing of each such application for transfer. Notice of the giving of such test shall be given the applicant not less than five days prior to the date of the administration of such test.

No transfer of a pupil shall be affected until the test has been given and the pupil is assigned to the grade and class for which the test shows he is best suited. No pupil shall be assigned to a grade and class more than three (3) grades above or below the grade or class that the pupil would have been assigned to had the pupil remained in the school from which the transfer is being made. Pending the administration of the test herein provided for and its grading and an assignment based thereon the superintendent of this school district or the attendance center principal to which the pupil seeks admission may assign the pupil temporarily to a grade and class comparable to that in which the pupil would have been had the pupil continued in the school from which the transfer was being made.

If any student is transferred or reassigned within this school district by an order of the board of trustees of this school district as designated by law of the State of Mississippi and not at his own request, the requirement of that pupil's taking the standardized test shall be waived. Likewise, if a pupil shall transfer from one school district to another school district in the manner provided and required by the laws of the State of Mississippi, the requirement of such pupil taking the standardized test shall be waived. ' 37-15-33

6. Any legal guardianship formed for the purpose of establishing residency for school district attendance purposes shall not be recognized by this school board. ' 37-15-3 (1)(d) *For more information see Policy JBCD Transfers and Withdrawals of Students*
7. After the designated formal registration period, any and all transfers of elementary school children within the district must be done through the Deputy Superintendent or the Superintendent at the central office.

Withdrawal from School Procedures

1. Parent or legal guardian will go to the school the student is enrolled in
2. Request for the student to be withdrawn
3. The school personnel will give the parent withdrawal paperwork to take with them to the new school.
4. School personnel will then send cumulative records to the new school once a request for records is received.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Parents and eligible students have the following rights under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act and this policy:

- The right to inspect and review the student's education record;
- The right to exercise limited control over other people's access to the student's education record;
- The right to seek to correct the student's education record, in a hearing, if necessary;
- The right to report violations of the FERPA to the Department of Education; and