Merchantville Board of Education 130 South Centre Street Merchantville, NJ 08109	File Code : 5111 Adopted : 09/27/1988 Revised : 04/09/1996 Revised : 02/28/2017 Reviewed : 06/03/2024

Admission

Eligibility

The board of education shall admit to its schools free of charge the following persons over five and under 20 years of age:

A. Any student domiciled within the district;

B. Any student kept in the home of a person other than the student's parent/guardian, where the person is domiciled in the school district and is supporting the student without remuneration as if the student were his/her own child;

C. Any student kept in the home of a person domiciled in the district, other than the parent/guardian, where the parent/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;

D. Any student whose parent/guardian temporarily resides within the district, notwithstanding the existence of a domicile elsewhere;

E. Any student whose parent/guardian moves to another district as the result of being homeless, subject to the provisions of administrative code;

F. Any student placed in the home of a district resident by court order pursuant to statute;

G. Any student previously residing in the district if the parent/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 statute; and

H. Any student residing on federal property within the state pursuant to statute.

Proof of Eligibility

The board shall accept any of the forms of documentation that are listed in the administrative code when they are presented by persons attempting to demonstrate a student's eligibility for enrollment in the district. The board shall consider the totality of information and documentation offered by an applicant and may accept other forms of documentation or information presented by a person seeking to enroll a student.
The board shall not require or request any information or document protected from disclosure by law or pertaining to criteria that are not legitimate bases for determining eligibility to attend school.

Kindergarten
Any child residing in the district shall be admitted to the kindergarten provided:

A. The child will have attained the age of five years on or before October 1 of that school year;

B. Proof shall be furnished of immunization against the communicable diseases at the time of enrollment or such immunization shall be completed within 30 days from date of entry into the school;

C. The child shall have been examined by either the school or a private physician, and the results shall be furnished to the school on the form provided.

Grade One

Any child residing in the district shall be admitted to grade one provided:

A. The child will have attained the age of six years on or before October 1 of that school year;

B. He/she has been in the first grade in another public school;

C. Proof has been furnished of immunization against communicable diseases.

Transfers Into Grades Two through 12

Pupils transferring into the district are expected to present copies of records from the previously attended school (or district) to aid in placement. Also required are proof of immunizations and proof of identity.

Within the time prescribed by law, the chief school administrator shall request in writing from the school or district of previous attendance, the pupil's records.

Initial placement shall be made on the basis of the records, but adjustment may be made at the discretion of the administration when the state-mandated assessment indicates that such adjustments would be beneficial to the child. Parents/guardians shall be informed of this policy on registration.

Joint Custody

When divorced parents/guardians have joint custody of (a) minor child(ren), admission shall be based on the present address of the parent/guardian with whom the child(ren) resided as of the date required by administrative code.

Affidavit Pupils

When there is any doubt as to whether a child is entitled to free public education in the district, all procedures of law and code shall be followed.

Nonresidents

The district is obliged to educate children of appropriate age residing in the district. The mere owning of any property whatsoever does not qualify a parent/guardian to send children to school

in this school district. See policy 5118 Nonresidents.

Students Returning from County Detention

The district shall accept all days of attendance and courses studied by a student at a county juvenile detention center and apply them toward district requirements for elementary, middle or high school graduation.

Homeless Pupils

Each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth shall have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths of this district. Homeless children and youths shall also have access to the education and other services that they need to ensure they have an opportunity to meet achievement standards of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards to which all students are held.

The homeless liaison will provide any assistance necessary and requested for the prompt enrollment of the student. The district will determine the educational placement of homeless students in each child's best interest and respond to appeals concerning them made by parents/guardians or other parties in accordance with New Jersey statutes and administrative code, as well as, pertinent federal law.

The chief school administrator or his or her designee shall ensure that the parent/guardian or adult student is given written notice, at the time the child or youth seeks enrollment in the school, and at least twice annually while the child or youth is enrolled, that describes the general rights provided under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and specifically states the choice of schools the children and youths are eligible to attend, This notice must be signed by the parent/guardian.

The board shall make this policy available to parents and the public.

Key Words

Admission, Resident, Pupil Records, Affidavit Pupil, Homeless Pupil, Student Records, Affidavit Student, Homeless Student

Legal References

N.J.S.A. 18A 7B-12: Determination of district of residence
N.J.S.A. 18A 7B-12.1: Homeless child, determination of district of residence; tuition costs, transportation
N.J.S.A. 18A 7C-12: Education programs, certain, in county juvenile detention centers, validity in public school districts.
N.J.S.A. 18A 36-19a Student records
N.J.S.A. 18A 36-25.1 Certified copy of birth certificate required for enrollment in school, records
N.J.S.A. 18A 38-1 Attendance at school free of charge
N.J.S.A. 18A 38-2 Free attendance at school by nonresidents placed in district under court order
N.J.S.A. 18A 38-3 Admission for nonresident of school district; parent on active duty
N.J.S.A. 18A 38-4 Free attendance to persons over age
N.J.S.A. 18A 38-5 Admission of pupils under age
N.J.S.A. 18A 38-5.1 No child to be excluded from school because of race, etc.
N.J.S.A. 18A 38-6 Time of admission of pupils; first school year
N.J.S.A. 18A 38-7.7 Finding, declaration
N.J.S.A. 18A 38-8 Duty to receive pupils from other districts
N.J.S.A. 18A 38-25 Attendance required of children between six and 16; exceptions
N.J.S.A. 18A 40-20 Immunization at public expense

N.J.S.A. 18A 43-1: Accident insurance for pupils authorized
N.J.S.A. 18A 44-1: Establishment of preschool
N.J.S.A. 18A 44-2: Establishment of kindergarten
N.J.S.A. 26 1A-9.1: Exemption for pupils from mandatory immunization; interference with religious rights; suspension
N.J.S.A. 26 4-6: Prohibiting attendance of teachers or pupils
N.J.A.C. 6A 12-3.1 Choice program application procedures for a district board of education
N.J.A.C. 6A 14-1.1 General requirements
N.J.A.C. 6A 16-2.2 Required health services
N.J.A.C. 6A 16-2.4 Required student health records
N.J.A.C. 6A 17-1.1 Purpose
N.J.A.C. 6A 22-1.1 edt seq Purpose and scope
N.J.A.C. 6A 22-3.1 Students domiciled within the school district
N.J.A.C. 6A 22-3.2 Other students eligible to attend school
N.J.A.C. 6A 22-3.3 Housing and immigration status
N.J.A.C. 6A 22-3.4 Proof of eligibility
N.J.A.C. 6A 23A-19.2 Method of determining the district of residence
N.J.A.C. 6A 23A-19.3 Address submission for determining the district of residence
N.J.A.C. 6A 32-8.2 School enrollment
20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq Every Student Succeeds Act (Formerly NCLB)
42 U.S.C. 11301 et seq. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
Tepper v. Board of Education of the Township of Hackensack, Bergen County, 1971 S.L.D. 549

Cross References

5118 - Sample Policy: Nonresidents
5119 - Sample Policy: Transfers
5120 - Sample Policy: Assessment of Individual Needs
5141 - Sample Policy: Health
5141. 2 - Sample Policy: Illness
5141. 3 - Sample Policy: Health Exams, Immunizations
6162.4 - Sample Policy: Community Resources
6171.4 - Sample Policy: Special Education