

Lower Merion School District

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Policy No.:	202
Section:	PUPILS
Title:	NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS
Date Adopted:	11/17/25

**R202-1 NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS – STUDENTS ENROLLING
BASED ON A *SUPPORT GRATIS* AFFIDAVIT**

When a student lives with a District resident (“the resident”) who is supporting the student without personal compensation (*gratis*), the student can enroll in a District school if the resident makes application and provides the required documentation. This option is not intended for students who are visiting or living in the District for the sole or primary purpose of attending a Lower Merion School District school.

In addition to the required documents, school staff will require the resident to provide a sworn and notarized statement in the form of Attachment A (“Support Gratis Affidavit”) indicating that the signer is a District resident and is supporting the student without receiving personal compensation, the student is living with them continuously and not just for the school year, and the resident accepts all personal obligations relative to school requirements.

School staff may also require additional information to substantiate the Support Gratis Affidavit before enrolling the student in District schools. Notwithstanding any procedure to the contrary outlined in other Board Policy or Administrative Regulations, if it is found that information contained in the Support Gratis Affidavit is false, the child referred to in the Support Gratis Affidavit may not be disenrolled from the school until:

- (1) the parents, guardians or any other person having charge or care of the child are provided an opportunity to appeal the determination of false information through a hearing held pursuant to an appropriate grievance policy or expulsion procedure of the school district and any appeal has been exhausted;
- (2) after the parents, guardians or any other person having charge or care of the child have been provided notice of such a hearing, the parents, guardians or any other person having charge or care of the child decline to participate in a hearing pursuant to the appropriate grievance policy or expulsion procedure of the school district or appeal;
- (3) after the parents, guardians or any other person having charge or care of the child have been provided information from the school district's liaison for homeless children and youth regarding the educational rights of homeless students under 42 U.S.C. § 11431. Information provided under 42 U.S.C. § 11431 shall be provided in a manner and form understandable to the parents, guardians or any other person having charge or care of the child; or
- (4) a court enters an order directing the child to be disenrolled and enrolled in a different school.

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If a student is disenrolled following the completion of a hearing and any available appeal, the parent, guardian, or other person having charge or care of the child retains the right to re-enroll their child in the District if they subsequently deliver the appropriate proof of residence to the District, provided, however, the District will review the new documentation to determine whether it meets the guidelines in District policy prior to admission.

A resident's receipt of payments, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Transitional Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), pre-adoptive support, child support, maintenance on public or private health insurance, support from the military or military personnel or other payments for or on account of the student will not be considered personal compensation or gain.

School staff will not require the natural parent(s) or former guardian(s) to provide information, but those individuals may be required to acknowledge that the right to make educational decisions for the child has been vested in the resident.

The District reserves the right to periodically confirm the status of students attending District schools based on being supported gratis by a resident adult. This confirmation may include periodic visits to the home where the student is residing when conflicting information is provided or discovered regarding the eligibility status of a student.

Obligations of the Resident and Right to Make Educational Decisions for the Student

An important component of the act of supporting a nonresident student gratis is the resident's accepting all personal obligations of the student relative to school requirements. Personal obligations may include (but are not limited to) providing for required immunizations, uniforms, fees and fines, citations and/or fines for truancy, attending parent-teacher conferences, or attending meetings and/or hearings concerning discipline.

The resident also assumes the obligation to make educational decisions for the child. Where a parent or parents wish to override the educational decision of the resident with respect to their child, the District will defer to the parent(s), but such circumstances may, in some cases, render the Support Gratis Affidavit null and void.

If the terms of a District resident's support and housing of a non-resident student are governed by a guardianship agreement or court order and address educational decision-making authority, those terms shall apply.