

ADMISSION OF RESIDENT STUDENTS

The Biddeford School Department shall admit as students those of legal school age whose parents or guardians legally reside within the unit. Adequate proof of residence shall be required. The School Committee reserves the right to verify residency through appropriate means for any enrolled student or any family applying for enrollment.

“Residence” means bona fide residence—one’s actual residence maintained in good faith—and does not include a temporary or superficial residence established for the purpose of free school attendance in this system. It shall be considered the place where important family activity takes place—the place where the family eats, sleeps, relaxes and plays. It is a place which can be called a “home.” While it is possible for an individual to maintain property and pay taxes in more than one location or community, for purposes of student eligibility for school attendance, “residence” shall mean **where the parent maintains a home.**

Guardianship shall be substantiated by a copy of a court order or probated will appointing the resident as guardian of the student. No student shall be accepted for enrollment or allowed to continue in enrollment on the basis of guardianship established by a power of attorney.

Resident students entering school for the first time shall be admitted upon presentation of an original birth certificate (or official copy) to the Principal, along with a record of required immunizations and pertinent health records. Photocopies shall be made and retained in the student’s file.

New resident students who are transferring into the school system shall be admitted on the basis of age, health and academic records received from the previous school. However, original documentation may be required if deemed necessary to appropriately determine a student’s eligibility for enrollment and assignment.

Legal Reference:	18-A MRSA § 5-201, et seq. 20-A MRSA §§ 5202 et seq.; 6002 Maine Commissioner of Ed. Administrative Letter No. 13, 10/9/97
Cross Reference:	JFAB – Admission of Non-Resident Students
Adopted:	January 24, 1995
	Revised: April 27, 1999

NEPN/NSBA Code: JFAA-R

ADMISSION OF RESIDENT STUDENTS - ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

Residency Requirement for Enrollment In Biddeford Schools

The Biddeford School District is funded by the City of Biddeford. Therefore, the following conditions apply to enrollment:

- All children who are residents of Biddeford and who meet legislated age requirements may attend the Biddeford Public Schools.
- Proof of residence is required for all registered students. Such proof consists of a tax bill, a valid lease, or a notarized statement by the residence owner acknowledging current tenancy.
- School Committee policy states that when doubt arises as to whether or not a child is residing in the Biddeford School District, the burden of proof shall rest with the family/guardian.
- A child to be enrolled in the Biddeford Public Schools must actually live in Biddeford.
- Registration of a student who doesn’t actually reside in Biddeford may result in liability of the registering parent or guardian for tuition charges.

Adopted: January 23, 2001

BIDDEFORD SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

ADMISSION OF NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

Individual non-resident students may be accepted under any of the following conditions if approved by the Superintendent:

- A. Any agreement with another local school administrative unit, upon payment of the tuition fee allowed by state law;
- B. Following receipt of a written parental request and formal approval by the School Committee on a space/program-available basis and upon payment of the tuition fee allowed by state law. Reapplication shall be made annually. Behavior, cooperation and suitability of programming shall be considered;
- C. To provide continuity of program for a student whose family provides evidence of intent to move to the community shortly after a school year begins, or moves from the community near the end of a school year;
- D. In accordance with Maine law related to the assignment of students for school purposes, including state wards; students for whom the Superintendent determines it is in the student's best interest to attend, students placed by state agencies; homeless children of school age; students living at light, fog warning or life stations; temporary residents; and a transfer student when the two Superintendents approve, in the student's best interest;
- E. Upon recommendation of the high school principal, a foreign exchange student assigned to a household in the City of Biddeford and under the auspices of a recognized foreign exchange program may be enrolled on a tuition-free basis; and
- F. Non-resident school employees may enroll their children in the Biddeford school system on a tuition-free basis.

Retroactive tuition will be assessed for students found to be non-residents and ineligible for enrollment under law or School Committee policy.

All age, health examinations, immunizations and any other requirements which apply to resident students shall also apply to non-resident students accepted for enrollment in the Biddeford school system.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA §§ 5203-5205; 5801
8 USC § 1101

Cross Reference: JFAA - Admission of Resident Students

Adopted: June 28, 1994

Revised: April 27, 1999