

POLICY re:
Non-Resident Students and Residency

I. Resident Students

- A. Children of school age who are bona fide residents of Stratford are entitled to school accommodations provided by the Stratford Board of Education without payment of tuition.
- B. A bona fide resident for purpose of this policy is defined as:
1. Any child who is residing with his or her parent or parents who is a bona fide resident of Stratford, or
 2. Any child who is residing (for non-educational purposes) with a legally appointed guardian who is a bona fide resident of Stratford.
 3. A legally emancipated minor who has established his residency in Stratford.
 4. Any child placed by the Commissioner of Children and Family Services or other recognized social services agency with a foster parent who is a bona fide resident of Stratford.

II. Non-Resident Students

- A. Children of school age who are not residents of Stratford but who are residing with adult relatives or non-relatives who are bona fide residents of Stratford may be entitled to school accommodations provided by the Stratford Board of Education without payment of tuition, provided that the child's residency in Stratford: (1) is to be permanent; (2) is provided by the Stratford relative or non-relative without payment or compensation by the child's parent or legal guardian; and (3) is not for the sole purpose of attending Stratford Public Schools.

The Superintendent shall require that sworn affidavits shall be executed by both the child's parent or legal guardian attesting to the child's residence in Stratford. The Superintendent may also require any other supporting documentation as he/she deems necessary.

These affidavits must be processed and approved by the Superintendent of Schools, before the student is permitted to enter the Stratford Public School system. In cases where logistical problems exist (e.g. securing necessary signatures), a two-week extension may be granted to avoid loss of school time by the student. The student will be automatically excluded if the completed affidavit is not forthcoming by that time.

- B. Children who are not bona fide residents of Stratford may be permitted to attend Stratford Public Schools at the discretion of the Stratford Board of Education, or the Superintendent, or their designees, upon such terms as said Board shall establish on a space available basis. Said terms shall include the payment of appropriate tuition as determined by the Stratford Board of Education. Non-resident students who are permitted to attend Stratford schools shall be responsible to provide their own transportation to and from school.

III. Students Moving During Year, Out of Town

If a pupil moves out of town during the year, he must transfer to the school district of his new residence.

Exceptions:

1. If a high school senior moves out of town on or after the end of the first semester of his senior year in school, he may complete the school year in Stratford, tuition free, subject to the approval of, and at the sole discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee. The request must be made in writing. Senior students found in violation of this policy will not be eligible for scholarships through the Stratford Public Schools.
2. If a pupil moves during the last five weeks of a marking period, he will have the right to complete that marking period in Stratford, without tuition. A student who moves during or after the April school vacation may complete the school year in Stratford, tuition free, if the parent submits request in writing and the Superintendent or his/her designee approves.

Students Moving During Year Within Stratford

If a pupil moves from one school district to another within the town, he must attend the school of his district. Bona fide Stratford residents may not pay tuition for their children to attend a school outside of their district in Stratford.

Students Moving During Year Within Stratford

Exceptions:

1. If a student moves (within Stratford District) after September 1st of his sophomore year, said student may complete the junior and senior year in the school he is currently attending. Transportation will not be provided.
2. If a student moves (within Stratford District) after September 1st of his seventh grade year, said student may complete his seventh and eighth grade year in the school he is currently attending. Transportation will not be provided.
3. If a student moves (within Stratford District) during the last five weeks of a marking period, said student will have the right to complete that marking period in the first school, if the parent submits the request in writing. No transportation will be provided. Any pupil who moves after April 1st has the right to complete the school year in the first school, if the parent submits the request in writing. If the student is a freshman, the student must transfer to the school district of his residence.
4. Movement into and out of Flood Middle School and Bunnell High School by students not in the Flood Middle School and Bunnell High School attendance area is dependent on enrollment and racial balance.

Students Planning to Move to Stratford

- C. Children who are citizens of a foreign country may be permitted to attend the Stratford Public Schools if they are participants in a foreign student exchange program, reside in Stratford, and are approved by the Superintendent. Tuition will be charged as required by state or federal laws.
- D. The decision regarding the residency status of any child shall be made by the Superintendent. The Superintendent's decision and approval of the enrollment of a non-resident child in any school year shall not be binding in any subsequent school year. During the course of the school year and at the end of each school year, the Superintendent will review the status of each non-resident child enrolled pursuant to this policy for approval or denial for the ensuing school year. The Superintendent shall require that parents and residents execute affidavits of residency prior to enrollment of a child in the Stratford Public Schools.
- E. In the event it is determined by the Superintendent of Schools that a child is not a legal resident of Stratford and is not entitled to be provided free school accommodations by the Stratford Board of Education, the parent or guardian of the child or the legally emancipated minor or child over the age of eighteen (18) shall be notified in writing pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 10-

186 that they have a right to request a hearing before the Stratford Board of Education regarding this issue.

- F. In the event it is determined that a child is not legally entitled to be provided school accommodations by the Stratford Board of Education without the payment of tuition, the Stratford Board of Education may, pursuant to Connecticut General Statute § 10-186, assess the child's parent or guardian for tuition for that period of time that the child was not legally entitled to attend Stratford Public Schools and may seek civil remedies to collect any unpaid assessments of tuition. The Stratford Board of Education reserves the right to seek criminal charges against those who seek to defraud, mislead, or otherwise engage in the theft of school services.
- G. Children deemed to be "homeless" as described in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act, shall enjoy the protections of state and federal laws as defined by said Act.
 - 1. "Educational costs" means the reasonable costs of providing regular or special education, but in no event shall such costs exceed the average per pupil cost for regular education students or the actual cost of providing special education for special education students.

**Legal Authority: Connecticut General Statute §10-253, §10-186
McKinney-Vento Homeless Act**

<p>Approved by the Stratford Board of Education, May 23, 2005 <i>Revised April 2016 - Replaces any and all existing Resident and Non-Resident policies Revision Approval by the Stratford Board of Education: <u>Monday, April 25, 2016</u>.</i></p>
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