

## **RESIDENCY POLICY**

### **A. Residency Requirements**

Only children of school age who actually reside in the Town of Canton are entitled to attend the Canton Public Schools (M.G.L., c. 76, s. 5). “Residence” is the primary place where a person dwells permanently, and is the place that is the center of his or her domestic, social, and civic life. Temporary residence in the Town of Canton for the purpose of enrolling in the Canton Public Schools, shall not be considered residency. (M.G.L. c. 76, s. 6). Persons who are found to temporarily reside in Canton for the special purpose of enrolling in the Canton Public Schools will be dismissed immediately from the Canton Public Schools and the parent(s), guardian(s), or others may be jointly and severally liable to the school district for tuition and other costs and fees.

Before any student is assigned to or attends any Canton public school, the student’s parent or legal guardian must provide documents demonstrating proof of permanent residency in Canton. The student cannot be enrolled until residency is established. Residency can, and does, change for students and their families, therefore the Canton Public Schools reserves the right to request additional, updated information at any time, and to routinely verify the residency of students entering grades preschool, kindergarten, six and nine. The Canton Public Schools will implement administrative procedures consistent with this policy.

Exceptions to the residency requirements include:

1. students whose families move out of town during their senior year of high school;
2. students in any other grade whose families move out of town after April 1st, who would like to finish the current school year and who pay the daily per pupil cost to remain enrolled and any future costs the District incurs on student’s behalf;
3. students for whom another community or state agency may pay approved tuition rates; and
4. homeless students entitled to a free, appropriate public education in accordance with the provisions of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act. (See Policy JFABD for additional details).

Decisions regarding residency may be appealed to the Superintendent of Schools who may exercise discretion if the situation warrants it. The Superintendent’s decision shall be final.

### **B. Investigation**

Once the student has enrolled, school principals are required to look into situations in which there is reason to believe that the phone number and the address do not appear to be authentic. The principals will report questionable situations to the Superintendent or his/her designee.

The Canton Public Schools may conduct an investigation into the residency of any student at any time. If the school department suspects that a family of a current Canton Public School student lives outside Canton, an investigation and/or recertification will take place. If a case warrants

closer inspection, the Superintendent may authorize a home visit and/or utilize the Canton Police Department or private investigator to further investigate a residency concern.

### **C. Removal of Non-Resident Students**

If it is discovered that a Canton student is a nonresident, the student's parent or legal guardian will be notified of the violation and instructed to enroll the student in the school district of the city or town where he or she actually lives. Failure to transfer the student out of the Canton Public Schools within five (5) school days will result in the student's immediate dismissal from the Canton Public Schools,

unless there are fewer than ten (10) school days left in the marking period/school year; in which case, the student will be transferred at the end of the marking period/school year.

A student, other than a high school senior, who becomes a non-resident on or after April 1st, may elect to pay the daily per pupil tuition cost, plus any future costs the district incurs on student's behalf, and complete the rest of the school year in his/her present school. Only students whose families move out of town during their senior year of high school will be allowed to complete the school year tuition free.

### **D. Tuition**

When a violation is determined, the Canton Public Schools will take action to recover tuition and other costs expended on behalf of the child during the period of non-residency. Parent(s), guardian(s), and other(s) may be jointly and severally liable to the Canton Public Schools for the student's tuition and other academic or related costs, as well as any investigation costs or legal fees incurred by the District as a result of any violations.

### **E. Elementary Neighborhood Schools**

Students shall attend their neighborhood elementary school unless there is a space issue, bullying issue, necessary special needs education classroom, or any Superintendent determined compelling reason.