

## RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

P5115

The Westford School Committee is committed to ensuring that all children residing in the district obtain an excellent education. Westford Public Schools' (WPS) residency policy ensures that each child in Westford has access to Westford's schools. It also allows the School Committee to recoup funding for any child attending Westford Public Schools (WPS) whose property taxes would not otherwise support Westford's schools.

Every child residing with their parents or legal guardians in Westford shall have a right to attend Westford's public schools. Residence shall be determined by the child's domicile; his or her home. The School Committee is not required to enroll a child who does not actually reside in the town unless said enrollment is authorized by law under School Choice or the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

If a child resides temporarily in a Westford residence which is not the legal residence of his/her parent or guardian, for the special purpose of their attending a Westford school, the child may attend a Westford school only after obtaining authorization of the Westford School Committee. The School Committee has the right to charge tuition to the parent or guardian, unless such tuition is payable by town of origin. Tuition payable by the parent or guardian shall, for the period of attendance, be computed at a regular rate established by the School Committee for non-resident pupils based on data from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the WPS to recoup regular and special education costs.

The WPS system requires evidence of current Westford residency upon enrollment. The Administration shall develop residency verification procedures. Required verification procedures may be found in Westford Public Schools Residency Verification Regulation. In a situation where a rental agreement is provided as evidence of current residency, evidence of residency is required on an annual basis prior to the child attending class at a Westford School.

Any person who violates or assists in the violation of this policy may be required to remit full restitution to the town of Westford.

### REFERENCES

Federal Law Reference:

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Massachusetts General Law Reference:

M.G.L. 76:5, 6 – Place of Attendance; Discrimination

M.G.L. 76:12 – Attendance Outside of Residence

Westford Public Schools Policy Reference:

P5103 – School Choice (Massachusetts Residents)

P5104 – Non School Choice (Non Massachusetts Residents)

R5115 – Westford Public Schools Residency Verification Procedure

Policy Adopted: April 9, 2001  
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WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Westford, MA 01886