

Stoughton Public Schools Stoughton, Massachusetts

Residency Policy

It is the policy of the Stoughton School Committee that proof of residence must be established by the student and/or his/her parent/guardian in accordance with the following criteria:

New residents will be required to sign a Residency Statement and submit two or more of the following as proof of residence:

1. A deed or lease agreement for property in Stoughton.
2. A mortgage statement verifying the owner's name and address.
3. A rental receipt or notarized letter from the property owner which includes the name and address of the landlord.
4. A residential utility and/or telephone statement. If resident does not subscribe to a land-line, a cell phone invoice, indicating a Stoughton address, is required instead.
5. Other pertinent information as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent of Schools.

It is important to note that simply owning property within the Town of Stoughton does not establish residency for a child and allow them to attend the Stoughton Public Schools.

Students living with persons other than their parent/guardian, who have met residency requirements and signed a Residency Statement, will be required to have the persons they are living with submit the following proof of residence:

1. Court documentation of guardianship;
2. Notarized documentation that the student is maintaining permanent residency with the person(s) indicated at the given address;
3. Students with unusual circumstances may appeal to the Superintendent and all decisions are final.

The parent/guardian of students whose residency changes within the community are also required to update their child's proof of residence.

The School Department reserves the right to confirm actual living arrangements. This includes conducting home visits. The purpose of such visits will be to assist in the determination as to whether or not the student resides at the indicated address. For the purposes of maintaining residency, a student must spend at least 51% of their school nights at their Stoughton address. To ensure that parents/guardians are aware of the residency requirements, the parent/guardian is required to sign the Residency Statement provided with this policy.

If the results of a residency investigation conducted by the District determines that a student does not reside in Stoughton, the parent/guardian of that student, or any person who falsely claims that a student lives with them, will, when deemed appropriate by the principal or superintendent, be required to pay the full cost of the student's tuition to the Stoughton Public Schools for the period of their enrollment, as well as any related legal fees. In addition to incurring civil liabilities, any person who knowingly registers or attempts to register a student not living in Stoughton, or maintains the enrollment of a student who no longer resides in Stoughton, will be found in violation of the residency requirement and will, when

deemed appropriate by the principal or superintendent, be referred to the proper agency for criminal prosecution.

When families already living in Stoughton find that their individual circumstances will create a violation of this policy, a Principal or district administrator shall have the authority to investigate and evaluate their specific circumstances, and based upon their discretion, may provide a reasonable short-term accommodation.

An anonymous Residency Tip Line (781-297-1050) is available for families, staff and students to report possible residency violations. People may also report residency violations to: a Building Principal, a Central Office Administrator, the Administrator of Special Education, and/or the Athletic Director. Each of these individuals will be responsible for reporting the alleged violation to the Superintendent.

Southeastern Regional Technical High School, Norfolk County Agricultural School, Foxboro Charter School, and any other vocational collaborative or charter school enrolling student residing in Stoughton, will be notified upon revisions of this Residency Policy.

This Residency Policy will be included in all Parent/Student Handbooks, as well as distributed to all parents/guardians upon registering a new student in the Stoughton Public Schools.

This residency policy does not apply to homeless students who are required to be enrolled immediately.

Revised and approved by the School Committee: March 18, 2008

Revised and approved by the School Committee: August 25, 2009

Revised and approved by the School Committee: April 23, 2013