

Admissions and Attendance

RESIDENCE DEFINED

Pupils whose parent or guardian resides in the District and has custody of the student, or pupils who are legal residents of the school District, or as otherwise provided by state and federal law, shall be considered residents and entitled to the privileges of the District's schools.

All other pupils shall be classified as nonresidents for school purposes.¹

HOMELESS CHILDREN AND UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

The District shall provide educational and related services to homeless children and youth, including preschool-aged homeless children, and homeless children or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian (unaccompanied youth) in a manner that does not segregate or stigmatize students on the basis of their homeless status.

The District shall provide its schools with guidelines that detail the rights of homeless students and the responsibilities that schools have to meet their needs and eliminate barriers to school attendance. These guidelines shall emphasize the right of homeless students to:

1. Have equal access to all educational programs and services, including transportation, that non-homeless children enjoy;
2. Have access to preschool programs as provided to other children in the District;
3. Continue attending their school of origin, when deemed in the best interest of the child, for the duration of homelessness;
4. Attend regular public school with non-homeless students; and
5. Continue to receive all services for which they are eligible (i.e., special education, gifted and talented, English learner).

The District shall provide transportation to the school of origin for homeless children at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison) if the child continues to live within the area served by the District in which the school of origin is located. If the child locates to a District other than that of his/her school of origin, the districts shall work together to apportion transportation to and from the school of origin and associated costs. If the districts are unable to reach agreement, responsibility and costs for transportation shall be shared equally.

The District shall designate an appropriate staff person to serve as liaison to homeless children and unaccompanied youth. In addition to coordination of McKinney-Vento implementation in the District, the liaison is responsible for:

- “Outreach” to other entities and agencies so that homeless students are identified;

Admissions and Attendance**HOMELESS CHILDREN AND UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH (CONTINUED)**

- Providing public notice of the educational rights of homeless children in locations frequented by parents/guardians and unaccompanied youths. This notice is to be in a manner and form that is understandable;²
- Seeing that school personnel who provide McKinney-Vento Services receive professional development and other support; and
- Ensuring that unaccompanied youths are enrolled in school and receive support to accrue credits and access to higher education.

The District shall inform school personnel, service providers, advocates working with homeless families, parents, guardians and homeless children and unaccompanied youths of the duties of the liaison.

All concerns regarding the education of homeless children and unaccompanied youth shall be referred to the District liaison. If a complaint arises regarding services or placement of homeless children and unaccompanied youth, the dispute resolution procedures as set forth in 704 KAR 7:090 shall apply.

Disputes over eligibility, school selection, or enrollment are to be appealed to the Kentucky Department of Education using the Dispute Resolution for Homeless form located at the link below:

<https://education.ky.gov/federal/progs/txc/Documents/Homeless%20Dispute%20Resolution%20Form.pdf>

The liaison shall provide a copy of the referenced form to the complainant.

The District shall provide services for homeless children and unaccompanied youths with disabilities as required by law.

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Students in foster care shall have equal access to all educational programs and services, including transportation, which all other students enjoy.

Foster children are to be immediately enrolled in a new school. The District shall collaborate with the Cabinet to ensure immediate and appropriate enrollment of the child and immediately contact the student's previous school for relevant records. The previous school shall provide the new school records within the student information system maintained by the Kentucky Department of Education by the end of the working day on the day of receipt of a request. If a record provided to the new school is incomplete, the previous school shall provide the completed record within three (3) working days of the original request. Remaining records shall be provided within ten (10) working days of the request.

The Superintendent shall appoint a Foster Care Liaison to coordinate activities relating to the District's provision of services to children placed in foster care, including transportation services, when the District is notified by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services in writing that the

Cabinet has designated its foster care point of contact for the District. The Superintendent may appoint the District Foster Care Liaison prior to such notice from the Cabinet.

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Children in foster care, including preschool aged children if the District offers a preschool program, shall be eligible to attend their “school of origin” unless a determination is made that it is not in the child’s best interest. Such determination will be made in collaboration with the child welfare agency. Dispute resolutions shall be handled by all agencies involved in the determination of the foster child’s placement.

When possible, a child exiting the foster care program during the school year shall be allowed to complete the school year in the school of origin.

BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD

Determining the best interest of the child takes into consideration the following factors, including but not limited to:

- The benefits to the child of maintaining educational stability;
- The appropriateness of the current educational setting;
- The child’s attachment and meaningful relationships with staff and peers at the current educational setting;
- The influence of the school’s climate on the child;
- The safety of the child; and
- The proximity of the placement to the school of origin, and how the length of a commute would impact the child.

Upon the determination that changing a child's school of enrollment is in the best interest of the child, the Cabinet, any applicable child-caring facility, child-placing agency, school, districts, and the child's state agency caseworker shall collaborate to ensure the immediate and appropriate enrollment of the child;

1. The child's state agency caseworker shall immediately contact the receiving district to inform the district of the pending enrollment changes.
2. The child's state agency caseworker or child-caring facility or child placing agency case manager shall either accompany the child and the foster parent to the new school to enroll the child or contact applicable staff at the new school via telephone during the day of enrollment, to assist with the enrollment, to share information relating to the child's unique needs and prior experiences that may impact their education, and to identify and prevent disruptions in any instructional or support services that the child may have been receiving prior to that time, including but not limited to medical and behavioral health history and individual service plans.

IMMIGRANTS

No student shall be denied enrollment based on his/her immigration status, and documentation of immigration status shall not be required as a condition of enrollment.

The District may provide an approved high school program to a student who is a refugee or legal alien until the student graduates or until the end of the school year in which the student reaches the age of twenty-one (21), whichever comes first.

Admissions and Attendance**NONRESIDENTS STUDENTS**

Nonresident pupils may be enrolled in the District's schools in accordance with Board policies 09.1222, 09.124, upon approval of the Superintendent, and payment of tuition. Once a nonresident student is enrolled for the academic year, the student may not be dismissed during that academic year without applicable due process.³

The Board reserves the right to refuse enrollment to any nonresident students as recommended by the administrative staff.

Primary through grade three (P-3)

Nonresident students in Primary through grade three (P-3) may be accepted.

Grades four through twelve (4-12)

A nonresident student in grades four through twelve (4-12) may be enrolled in the District's schools if s/he can present his/her previous year's school record (not grade card) showing that the s/he maintained a "C" average or better for that school year. In addition, student should also have acceptable attendance and discipline records. A nonresident student enrolled in a District school will have his/her grades averaged at the close of each school year; any student who has not maintained a "C" average for the school year may be refused admittance the following school year.

Any extenuating circumstances in such cases may be excused by the Principal of the school the child is scheduled to attend if the Principal feels an exception is warranted. In the event a student cannot reenter school because s/he did not maintain a "C" average, that student, after a year's study elsewhere, may present to the Principal a school record showing s/he earned a "C" average or above and may be enrolled for a one (1) year period. If, after the second year's effort, the student fails to maintain at least a "C" average, the student will not be enrolled again as a nonresident student.

Nonresident students designated as homeless or foster children may be required to be enrolled consistent with the "best interest of the child" or "school of origin" requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the McKinney-Vento Act as amended by ESSA.

EXPELLED/CONVICTED STUDENTS

The parent, guardian, Principal, or other person or agency responsible for the student shall provide to the school prior to admission, a sworn statement or affirmation concerning any of the following that have occurred in or outside Kentucky:

1. If a student has been expelled from school; or
2. If a student has been adjudicated guilty/convicted of, homicide, assault, or an offense in violation of state law or school regulations relating to weapons, alcohol, or drugs.

Assault shall mean any physical assault, including sexual assault.

Admissions and Attendance**EXPELLED/CONVICTED STUDENTS (CONTINUED)**

The sworn statement or affirmation shall be on a form provided by the appropriate state agency and shall be sent to the receiving school within five (5) working days of official notification that a student has requested enrollment in the new school.⁴

If a student is suspended or expelled for any reason, or faces charges that may lead to suspension or expulsion, but withdraws prior to a hearing from any public or private school in Kentucky or any other state and then moves into the District and seeks to enroll, the District shall review the details of the charges, suspension, or expulsion and determine if the student will be admitted, and if so, what conditions may be imposed upon the admission. Prior to a decision to deny admission, the District shall offer the student, parent/guardian, or other persons having legal custody or control of the student a hearing before the Board.

NON-IMMIGRANT FOREIGN STUDENTS

Non-immigrant foreign students qualifying for F-1 immigration status or who obtain an F-1 student visa may be admitted to the District based on the following guidelines:

1. These students shall not be permitted to attend any publicly funded adult education program.
2. These students may be permitted to attend in grades nine through twelve (9-12), but not at earlier grade levels.
3. As required by law, these students shall pay a tuition fee equal to the full, unsubsidized per capita cost to the District for providing education to the student for the period of attendance.
4. The period of attendance shall not exceed twelve (12) months.

These requirements do not apply to immigrant students residing in the District or foreign students in any other immigration status, including exchange students.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

The District will accept foreign exchange students participating in international exchange programs recognized by the United States Department of Education or the Kentucky State Department of Education. A foreign exchange student living with a host family residing within the District boundaries shall be admitted as a resident student. A foreign exchange student living with a host family residing outside the District boundaries may be admitted as an out-of-district student and shall pay the established tuition fee.

Admissions and Attendance

REFERENCES:

¹KRS 159.010; OAG 78-64

²42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq. (McKinney-Vento Act)

³KRS 158.120; OAG 80-47; OAG 79-327; OAG 75-602; *G.C. v. Owensboro Public Schools*, 711 F.3d 623 (6th Cir., 2013)

⁴KRS 158.155; KRS 157.330; KRS 158.150

KRS 157.320; KRS 157.350; KRS 157.360; KRS 158.100; KRS 199.802

702 KAR 7:125; 704 KAR 7:090; OAG 91-171

P. L. 104-208

P. L. 114-95 (Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015), 20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.

8 U.S.C. Sections 1101 and 1184; 8 C.F.R. Section 214

Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982)

Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974 (EEOA)

RELATED POLICIES:

06.32; 08.1114; 09.11; 09.121; 09.1222; 09.1223; 09.123; 09.124

09.126 (re requirements/exceptions for students from military families); 09.14; 09.211

LEGAL: HB 517 AMENDS KRS 159.035 TO REQUIRE THAT ANY STUDENT ENROLLED IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL NOT HAVE HIS OR HER PERFECT ATTENDANCE RECORD NEGATIVELY AFFECTED BY PARTICIPATING IN ANY OF THE PAGE PROGRAMS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: ALTHOUGH THE STUDENT IS NOT PRESENT AT SCHOOL, THE DISTRICT WILL STILL RECEIVE SEEK FUNDING

LEGAL: HB 194 AMENDS KRS 158.143 TO PROVIDE THAT A STUDENT ENROLLED IN A DISTRICT-OPERATED ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO SEEK ATTAINMENT OF A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS AND SHALL BE EXEMPTED FROM COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: STUDENT NO LONGER ENROLLED FOR SEEK FUNDING

STUDENTS

09.122

Attendance Requirements

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

All children in the district who have entered kindergarten or who are between the ages of six (6), as of August 1, and eighteen (18), except those specifically exempted by statute, shall enroll and be in regular attendance in the schools to which they are assigned.¹

Per 704 KAR 5:060, any five (5) year old child not otherwise subject to compulsory attendance laws, but who voluntarily enrolls in the primary school program at the beginning of the school year, may upon parental or guardian's written request be withdrawn from the program at any time within the first two (2) school calendar months. At the end of such trial period a child shall be considered irrevocably entered into the primary school program for purposes of KRS 159.010 and KRS 159.020.

EXEMPTIONS FROM COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

The Board shall exempt the following from compulsory attendance:

1. A graduate from an accredited or approved 4-year high school;
2. A pupil who is enrolled in a private or parochial school;
3. A pupil who is less than seven (7) years old and in regular attendance in a private kindergarten nursery school;
4. A pupil whose physical or mental condition prevents or renders inadvisable, attendance at school or application to study;
5. A pupil who is enrolled and in regular attendance in private, parochial, or church school programs for exceptional children;
6. A pupil who is enrolled and in regular attendance in a state supported program for exceptional children;² or
7. A student enrolled in a District-operated alternative education program who attains a High School Equivalency Diploma.⁸

PHYSICIAN'S STATEMENT REQUIRED

The Board, before granting an exemption, shall require a signed statement as required by law unless a student's individual education plan (IEP) specifies that placement of the child with a disability at home or in a hospital is the least restrictive environment for providing services.²

Attendance Requirements**EXCEPTIONS TO PRESENCE AT SCHOOL**

Students must be physically present in school to be counted in attendance, except under the following conditions:

1. Students shall be counted in attendance when they are receiving home/hospital, institutional,² or court-ordered instruction in another setting.
2. Participation of a pupil in 4-H activities that are regularly scheduled and under the supervision of a county extension agent or the designated 4-H club leader shall be considered school attendance.³
3. Students may participate in cocurricular activities and be counted as being in attendance during the instructional school day, provided the Principal/designee has given prior approval to the scheduling of the activities. Approval shall be granted only when cocurricular activities and trips are instructional in nature, directly related to the instructional program, and scheduled to minimize absences from classroom instruction.⁴
4. Students participating in an off-site virtual high school class or block may be counted in attendance in accordance with requirements set out in Kentucky Administration Regulation.⁴
5. Students having an individual education plan (IEP) that requires less than full-time instructional services shall not be required to be present for a full school day.⁴
6. Students who attend classes for moral instruction at the time specified and for the period fixed shall be credited with the time spent as if they had been in actual attendance in school, and the time shall be calculated as part of the actual school work required by law. Students shall not be penalized for any school work missed during the specified moral instruction time.⁵
7. Students participating as part of a school-sponsored interscholastic athletic team, who compete in a regional or state tournament sanctioned by the Kentucky Board of Education or KHSAA, that occurs on a regularly scheduled student attendance day shall be counted and recorded present at school on the date or dates of the competition, for a maximum of two (2) days per student per school year. Students shall be expected to complete any assignments missed on the date or dates of the competition.⁶
8. The pupil is participating in standards-based, performance-based credit that is awarded in accordance with 704 KAR 3:305, and that falls within one (1) or more of the categories of standards-based course work. A pupil may be counted in attendance for performance-based credit for a class or block for the year or semester in which the pupil initially enrolled in the class or block if the pupil demonstrates proficiency in accordance with local policies.^{4 & 7}
9. Students attending basic training required by a branch of the United States Armed Forces shall be considered present for all purposes for up to ten (10) days.³
10. Students participating in any of the page programs of the General Assembly.³

Attendance Requirements

REFERENCES:

¹KRS 159.010; OAG 85-55
²KRS 159.030
³KRS 159.035
⁴702 KAR 7:125
⁵KRS 158.240
⁶KRS 158.070
⁷704 KAR 3:305
⁸KRS 158.143
KRS 158.030
KRS 159.020; KRS 159.180; KRS 159.990
704 KAR 5:060
OAG 79-68; OAG 79-539; OAG 87-40; OAG 97-26

RELATED POLICIES:

08.131; 08.1312
09.111; 09.121; 09.123; 09.36

LEGAL: HB 563 (2021) AMENDED KRS 158.120 TO REQUIRE THAT BY JULY 1, 2022, LOCAL BOARDS ADOPT A NONRESIDENT PUPIL POLICY TO GOVERN THE TERMS UNDER WHICH THE DISTRICT SHALL ALLOW ENROLLMENT OF NONRESIDENT PUPILS. WRITTEN AGREEMENTS WILL NO LONGER BE NECESSARY. CHOOSE AN OPTION BELOW.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: NONRESIDENT PUPILS WILL BE COUNTED IN ADA FOR STATE FUNDING

STUDENTS

09.1222

Nonresident Students

☐ The District shall allow nonresident students to enroll in the District pursuant to existing Admissions and Attendance Policy 09.12, Tuition Policy 09.124, and related procedures.

Upon allowing nonresident pupil enrollment, the policy shall allow nonresident children to be eligible to enroll in any public school located within the District. The policy shall not discriminate between nonresident pupils, but may recognize enrollment capacity, as determined by the District. The nonresident pupil policy and any subsequent changes adopted by the Board shall be filed with the Kentucky Department of Education no later than thirty (30) days following their adoption.¹

REFERENCES:

¹KRS 158.120
KRS 157.350

RELATED POLICIES:

09.12; 09.124; 09.313; 09.42811

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: NONRESIDENT PUPILS WILL BE COUNTED IN ADA FOR STATE FUNDING

09.12 AP.21

Form to be used by NONRESIDENT students requesting admission.

Date

EXPLANATION: HB 563 (2021) AMENDED KRS 158.120 TO REQUIRE THAT BY JULY 1, 2022, LOCAL BOARDS ADOPT A NONRESIDENT PUPIL POLICY TO GOVERN THE TERMS UNDER WHICH THE DISTRICT SHALL ALLOW ENROLLMENT OF NONRESIDENT PUPILS.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: NONRESIDENT PUPILS WILL BE COUNTED IN ADA FOR STATE FUNDING

STUDENTS

09.12 AP.22

Nonresident Student Enrollment

NONRESIDENT TRANSFERS

Those nonresident pupils requesting enrollment in a school in this District for the first time shall follow these procedures:

1. Complete the school's registration forms, which must be signed by the parent/guardian(s).
2. Parent/guardian(s) and pupil then make an appointment with the Principal for a review of the application and the pupil's school records. The pupil shall bring the following documents from the last school attended to this meeting:
 - Report card and other academic information including the entire cumulative folder from the student's former school, if the student has the folder in his/her possession.
 - Statement of student's attendance.
 - Statement of student discipline.
 - Student's physical examination and immunization records.
3. Nonresident pupils will only be enrolled when they can be assigned to classes where the enrollment is below the allowable maximum.
4. A student expelled from his/her previous school during the last school year need not apply for admission.
5. When the number of nonresident students must be limited due to enrollment capacity, the following priorities will be observed:
 - Those nonresident students attending school in this District last year will have priority over new applicants.
 - Siblings of nonresident students already attending school in the District shall have priority over new applicants who do not have siblings currently enrolled.
 - When priorities are equal, the date of application will be the determining factor for enrollment.
6. Nonresident pupils may be enrolled in the District's schools in accordance with Board policies 09.1222, and 09.124.
7. The decision of the Principal in granting enrollment of nonresident pupils may be appealed to the Superintendent. If the decision of the Superintendent is not satisfactory, an appeal may be made to the Board. The decision of the Board shall be final.

RELATED POLICIES:

09.12 (all procedures)

09.1222; 09.124 (all procedures)