

TUITION / ADMISSION OF NONRESIDENT STUDENTS

For purposes of open enrollment a "nonresident student" means a student who resides in this state and who is enrolled in or is seeking enrollment in a school district other than the school district in which the student resides. A student who is not a resident of the District but is a resident of Arizona who meets the age and other requirements for open enrollment established by state law and District policy shall be admitted to a school without payment of tuition.

A student shall also be admitted to a school *without tuition* payment, if:

- The student is the child of a United States resident who is not a resident of Arizona, if this is in the best interest of the student and the student is placed with a relative per A.R.S. 15-823 and the placement is not to avoid tuition payment.
- The student is a resident of the United States and evidence indicates that because the parents are homeless or the child is abandoned, as defined in A.R.S. 8-201, the child's physical, mental, moral or emotional health is best served by placement with a person who does not have legal custody of the child and who is a resident within the school district, unless it is determined that the placement is solely for the purpose of obtaining an education in this state without payment of tuition.
- The student presents a certificate of educational convenience issued by the County School Superintendent pursuant to A.R.S. 15-825.
- The student is a child of a nonresident teaching or research faculty member of a community college district or state university or a nonresident graduate or undergraduate student of a community college district or state university whose parent's presence at the district or university is of international, national, state, or local benefit.

The District shall admit the following students, *charging tuition* as prescribed in statute:

- The child of an Arizona resident who is not a resident of the District, if the District provides a high school and the student is a resident of an Arizona common school district that is not in a high school district and that does not offer instruction in the student's grade. Special circumstances may apply in accordance with A.R.S. 15-2041 after three hundred fifty (350) students have been admitted.
- For an Arizona resident who is not a resident of the District, if the district of residence provides only financing for students who are instructed by another

school district and for students from a unified district that does not offer instruction in the student's grade.

- A student who is issued a certificate of educational convenience to attend school in the School District or adjoining the school district to that in which the student is placed by an agency of this state or a state or federal court of competent jurisdiction, as provided in A.R.S. 15-825.

The District shall admit a student who is the resident of a school district that has entered into a voluntary agreement with the District, *charging tuition* as agreed to in accordance with A.R.S. 15-824(E)(3).

The District may admit nonresident foreign exchange students without payment of tuition, or as it may otherwise prescribe.

The District shall not include in its student membership count students who are not Arizona residents. [Unless authorized by statute](#), the District is prohibited from obtaining state funding for any student who is not a resident of the state.

"Residence" Defined

The residence of a student is the residence of the person having legal custody of the student, except as provided in A.R.S. 15-823 through A.R.S. 15-825.

Residency of the parent/guardian or surrogate may be determined by showing the individual's presence and intent to remain in the District. Documentation of residency may be determined by using the following verifiable documentation.

Verifiable Documentation

A.R.S. 15-802(B) requires school districts and charter schools to obtain and maintain verifiable documentation for Arizona residency upon enrollment in an Arizona public school. This policy is written to assist school districts and charter schools in meeting the legal requirements of the statute.

The documentation required by A.R.S. 15-802 must be provided each time a student enrolls in a school district or charter school in this state, and reaffirmed during the district or charter's annual registration process via the district or charter's annual registration form. The documentation supporting Arizona residency should be maintained according to the school's records retention schedule.

In general, students will fall into one (1) of two (2) groups: 1) those whose parent or legal guardian is able to provide documentation bearing his or her name and address; and 2) those whose parent/legal guardian cannot document his or her own residence because of extenuating circumstances including, but not limited to, that the family's household is multi-generational. Different documentation is required for each circumstance.

Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) that maintains his or her own residence: The parent or legal guardian must complete and sign a form indicating his or her name, the name of the school district, school site, or charter school in which the student is being enrolled, and provide *one (1)* of the following documents, which bear the parent or legal guardian's full name and residential address or physical description of the property where the student resides (no P.O. Boxes):

Valid Arizona driver's license, Arizona identification card

- Valid Arizona motor vehicle registration
- Valid United States passport
- Property deed
- Mortgage documents
- Property tax bill
- Rental agreement or lease (including Section 8 agreement)
- Utility bill (water, electric, gas, cable, phone)
- Bank or credit card statement
- W-2 wage statement
- Payroll stub
- Certificate of tribal enrollment or other identification issued by a recognized Indian tribe
- Other documentation from a state, tribal, or federal agency (Social Security Administration, Veterans' Administration, Arizona Department of Economic Security, etc.)

Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) that does not maintain his or her own residence: The parent or legal guardian must complete and sign a form indicating his or her name, the name of the school district, school site, or charter school in which the student is being enrolled, and submit a signed, notarized affidavit bearing the name and address of the person who maintains the residence where the student lives attesting to the fact that the student resides at that address, along with a document from the bulleted list above bearing the name and address of the person who maintains the residence.

Use of and Retention of Documents by Schools

