



### *Residency and Enrollment Eligibility Frequently Asked Questions*

#### **What is the Northville Public School System's position on student enrollment eligibility, verification, and concerns about students illegally attending our schools?**

The Board of Education has established policy (Board Policy numbers 5111, 5117, 5118, 5119 and 6201) and the administration has developed supporting guidelines that specify which students are legally eligible to attend our schools and procedures for those students to enroll. As in all cases, the policies comply with the state law of Michigan. The Board of Education, in conjunction with the administration, is committed to enforcing state law and local policy while also respecting the rights of individual citizens.

#### **What students are eligible to enroll in Northville Public Schools?**

The following categories of students may legally attend our schools under state or federal law.

1. A student who lives with one or both parents or legal guardians in a home they own or rent in the district. The residence must be the parent/guardian's primary legal domicile and they must actually live in the home. Owning or renting a home in the district, but not living in it, is not sufficient to establish residency.
2. A student who does not live in the district, but whose parent or legal guardian lives within the district (even if the student does not live with the parent or guardian).
3. A student who lives with a parent or legal guardian who lives with another person in the district (must be able to document that they are living at the address).
4. A student whose parent or legal guardian, residing outside the district, is unable to provide a home for the student and who places the student in the home of a relative of the student within the district for purposes of securing a suitable home for the child and not for an educational purpose.
5. A student who is placed in a licensed foster home within the district boundaries.
6. A student who is homeless (See Board Policy 6201 for more information on what constitutes homelessness).
7. A non-resident student attending special education programs hosted by NPS under Public Act 18.

#### **Some of the exceptions appear quite lenient. Why would the district adopt such standards for enrollment eligibility?**

All of the categories are rooted in either state or federal law. As a public school system we are obligated to comply with those laws.

### **Are there any other exceptions provided for in policy?**

Yes. The Board of Education has provided the following four exceptions that allow non-residents, under these very specific scenarios, to attend Northville Public Schools:

1. If a family of a legally entitled student as a junior in high school moves out of the district, the student is offered the opportunity to complete his or her senior year in high school if a release from the resident district is granted.
2. If a student's family has purchased a home in the district but has not yet located at the start of a semester, the student will be permitted to attend if a release from the resident district is granted.
3. If the family of a student has moved out of the district within 30 days of the fall or mid-year count date, the student will be permitted to complete the respective semester.
4. Foreign exchange students (from recognized Foreign Exchange Student Programs) when living with a host family in the district.

### **What is the Northville Public School System's enrollment process?**

No student is permitted to attend classes without first establishing enrollment eligibility in person at one of the district's school buildings (See How to Register Your Child).

### **How can residents or district employees let the district know about someone they suspect is a non-resident who is attending our schools?**

If, after reviewing the policies and exceptions, you suspect a student is not legally entitled to attend NPS, please provide a report, including the basis for your concerns, by calling 248-344-8451.

### **I have reported a student to be investigated, but I never received an update on the result. Why is there no feedback when I report a student?**

Federal law, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), protects all students' privacy. The district cannot and will not provide specific feedback on any student residency cases.

### **Why is changing your address with the school building important?**

Having the most up-to-date information is critical to our schools. While especially important should an emergency contact be necessary, the district also uses this information for mailing regular school business notices. Please help us be responsive to your family's needs by notifying us when there is a change of address.