

Students

RESIDENT/NON-RESIDENT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN THE FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

5118(a)

I. Resident Students

Children who are residents of Fairfield shall be entitled to school accommodations provided by the Fairfield Board of Education without payment of tuition. Children shall be deemed residents of Fairfield if they permanently reside with their parents or a parent (and/or legal guardian(s)) in Fairfield.

Requirements for student registration can be found by clicking on the link below:
<https://www.fairfieldschools.org/parents/student-registration>

II. Non-Resident Students

A. Definition

A non-resident student is a student who:

1. Resides outside the school district; or
2. Resides within the school district on a temporary basis; or
3. Resides within the school district on a permanent basis but with pay to the person(s) with whom the student is living; or
4. Resides within the school district for the sole purpose of obtaining school accommodations; or is
5. Placed by the Commissioner of Children and Youth Services or by other agencies in a private residential facility. However, under the circumstance, children may attend local schools with tuition paid by the home district unless special education considerations make attendance in local schools and programs inappropriate. Children not requiring special education who live in town as a result of placement by a public agency (other than another Board of Education and except as provided otherwise in this paragraph) are resident students; those requiring special education may attend local schools (with special education cost reimbursements in accordance with statutes) unless special education considerations make attendance in local schools and programs inappropriate.

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The Superintendent may approve for admission students who are not residents of Fairfield, either on a tuition basis or without tuition, as described below.

B. Superintendent Approval: Non-residents without tuition

At the discretion of the Superintendent or designee, students who are not residents of Fairfield but qualify under one of the following categories may be permitted to attend Fairfield Public Schools without paying tuition provided that space exists in established classes, sections, programs, or services; students are in good academic, attendance, and behavioral standing; and parents agree to provide transportation to and from school:

1. Members of the senior class if parents move from Fairfield during the student's senior year;
2. Students whose parents or guardian plan to move to Fairfield before the completion of the current semester, and who meet the requirements of registration;
3. Regularly enrolled children of families who have moved out of the school district and who move after January 1 of the current school year, may complete the school year without tuition.

C. Children of Non-Resident Parents (Non-tuition)

Children who are living in the Fairfield school district with relatives and/or non-relatives and whose parents are not Fairfield residents may be entitled to school accommodations provided by the Fairfield Public Schools without payment of tuition. However, pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-253(d), the child's residence in Fairfield must meet the following conditions:

1. The child's residence in Fairfield must be permanent;
2. The child's residence in Fairfield must be provided by the Fairfield resident without payment or compensation; and
3. The child's residence in Fairfield must not be for the sole purpose of receiving an education in the Fairfield Public Schools.

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In order to determine whether the residence is being provided “without payment or compensation,” the Board may consider the following factors, in addition to any other relevant facts:

1. Payment does not include the maintenance by a parent of his or her child on a health insurance policy;
2. Payment does not include claiming the child as a dependent for income tax purposes by his or her parent;
3. Payment does not include child support payments pursuant to a court order; and
4. Payment shall include any monetary remuneration from a parent or legal guardian for the support of a child either to the relative or non-relative or to the child. It shall not include gifts to the child for purposes other than support.

The Board of Education may require documentation from the parent* that the residence is to be permanent, provided without payment or compensation and not for the sole purpose of obtaining school accommodations provided by the Fairfield Public Schools. Such documentation may include affidavits as provided by law, provided that prior to any request for documentation of a child’s residency from the child’s parent* the Board of Education shall provide the parent* with a written statement specifying the basis upon which the Board has reason to believe that such child, emancipated minor or pupil 18 years of age or older is not entitled to school accommodations.

- * For the purpose of the above paragraph, “parent” includes guardian, relative or non-relative, emancipated minor or pupil 18 years of age or older, as applicable.

The determination of whether a student qualifies for accommodations provided by the Fairfield Public Schools shall be determined based on the factual circumstances of each case.

D. Children of Non-Resident Employees (Tuition)

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to accept non-resident students of employees in Grades 6 - 12 in the District and to develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

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For purposes of this policy and its associated administrative regulations, tuition means the cost as set forth in the administrative regulations for this policy.

Tuition will be determined annually by the District each January 15 for the upcoming school year. The basis for the tuition is twenty percent of the current total per pupil expenditure for the first child of the non-resident employee. For a non-resident employee with multiple children, the basis of tuition for each additional child will be set at the discretion of the superintendent or designee, but shall be no less than 10% of the rate of the first child. The parent will be charged any excess costs for programs and services provided beyond the general education curriculum and extracurricular offerings in addition to the base tuition rate. When a student is accepted into, or already has, a PPT determined special education program, the additional tuition cost shall be the total of any excess costs for programs and services provided beyond the general education curriculum. The tuition will be billed on an annual basis and paid via payroll deductions as stated in the administrative regulations.

Students must remain in good academic, discipline and attendance standing. Continued enrollment in the Fairfield Public Schools is subject to annual review. The decision to approve the enrollment of said student in any school year shall not be binding in any subsequent school years.

The Superintendent will provide an annual report of tuition students, including grade and school placements to the Board of Education each October as part of the annual enrollment update.

III. Denial of Accommodations

If the Administration determines that any student is not a resident of Fairfield or that the student is otherwise not entitled to accommodations provided by the Fairfield Public Schools, it shall so notify that student and/or the student's parent(s) and/or legal guardian.

Any child, parent, or guardian may request a hearing before a hearing officer as appointed by the Board of Education in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-186 if they believe they have been denied accommodations by the Fairfield Public Schools.

In the event it is determined that a child is not legally entitled to be provided school accommodations by the Fairfield Board of Education without payment of tuition, the Fairfield Board of Education may, pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 10-186, assess the child's parent or guardian for tuition for that period of time that the child was not legally entitled to attend Fairfield Public Schools and may seek civil remedies to collect any unpaid assessments of tuition.

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Legal References: Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-186
 Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-253(d)
 Connecticut State Department of Education Guidelines for Residency
 Requirements

Adopted: 7/19/2005

Revised and Adopted: 9/14/2010

Revised and Adopted: 6/28/2022

Revised and Adopted: 6/25/2024

Revised and Adopted: 2/10/2026