

V. Students

A. Administrative Policies

1. Students' Residence for School Purposes

I. Statement of Residency

A child shall be entitled to enroll in the Narragansett School System if he or she resides in the Town of Narragansett. A child shall be deemed to be a resident of the Town of Narragansett if his or her parents reside in the Town of Narragansett. (Appendix A Form) If the child's parents live separate and apart, the child shall be deemed to be a resident of the town or locality in which the parent having actual custody of the child resides. If a child has no living parents, has been abandoned by his or her parents, or when parents are unable to care for their child, the child shall be deemed to be a resident of the Town of Narragansett if the child lives with his or her legal guardian, natural guardian, or other person acting in *loco parentis* in such situations, be it another family member or a non-relative, need not be the child's legal guardian. As long as a student's residence separate and apart from his or her parents is for some substantial reason other than for the purpose of school attendance, the student is entitled to attend public schools in the Town of Narragansett. An emancipated minor shall be deemed to be a resident of the Town of Narragansett if he or she actually lives in the Town of Narragansett (Appendix C Form).

If a student meets the criteria for a child in transition (one who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate night-time residence as defined in Policy V.A.1.a.), the student must be allowed to enroll without delay while the particular circumstances are investigated.

The appointment of a guardian for a child shall not operate to change said child's residence unless (1) the child takes up residence with the guardian within the Town of Narragansett, and (2) the guardian has been appointed for a substantial reason other than to change the child's residence for the purpose of enrolling the child in the Narragansett School System.

II. Burden of Proof

Narragansett officials may request information to verify the reason for the child's living separate and apart from his or her parents. If the school believes that the reason for the child living with the non-parent is simply to access a preferred school system, the parties may request a hearing to determine the school residency of the child and an expedited hearing and decision will be provided. (Appendix B Form) If the child is already attending school, school officials may not unilaterally disenroll the child. Notice to the adult acting in *loco parentis*, as well as to the parents(s) if they are known, that the district is requesting a residency hearing before the Commissioner or his designee has begun.

Parent/guardian of the resident student or an emancipated minor shall prove that they actually live in the Town of Narragansett. Such proof can be a rental agreement, mortgage agreement, or other documentary proof

If it is alleged that a child's residence has been changed due to illness of a parent, the break-up of the child's family, abandonment of the child by his or her parents, death of the child's parents, or emancipation of the child, the person alleging such circumstances shall bear the burden of proof.

V.A.1. Students' Residence for School Purposes (continued)

III. Completion of Semester of School Year

Should a Narragansett student leave the town during the course of a school semester, he or she shall be entitled to complete that semester in the Narragansett Schools (R. I.G.L. 16-64-8). If the student is a senior or about to enter his or her senior year, he or she shall be entitled to complete the senior year. Other than this one exception, a student shall only be entitled to complete the one semester. Parents have the responsibility to provide their children with transportation to and from school in these cases. In the event that a student should exercise his or her right to continue to attend the Narragansett Public School consistent with this policy, his or her parents shall assume all responsibility for that student's transportation.

IV. Tuition

Employees of the Narragansett School System (NSS) and Town of Narragansett will be eligible for tuition reduction of up to 15% of the yearly determined rate for the elementary, middle, and high schools. Narragansett School System (NSS) and Town of Narragansett employees may pay the resident rate for the preschool program.

The School Committee shall establish a standard basic tuition rate annually for any non-resident student to attend the Narragansett School System. The rate may vary for attendance at the preschool, elementary, middle, or high school and will be based upon the program per capita costs at each school in the preceding year. In the case of the preschool program, the rate shall be determined on a yearly basis based on program enrollment and structure. The standard basic rate does not take into account any additional costs that may be incurred for Special Education services, Preschool students who are enrolled as a non-resident student and whom staff are suspecting to have a disability will have to return to the LEA of residency for the purpose of regulation 300.11 Child find. The responsibility of special education preschool services will return to the LEA of residency. Elementary, Middle and High School students who require special education services, these additional cost will be added to the standard basic rate and payment for these services will also become the responsibility of parents/guardians of non-resident students. In the event that a student erroneously claims residence in the Town of Narragansett, the child's parents/ guardians shall be liable for tuition. In this case, student records and transcripts shall be withheld until compensation has been recovered.

V. Discretionary Admission of Non-Resident Students

If a student is not entitled to enrollment in the Narragansett School System (NSS), a petition may be filed with the Superintendent requesting his or her enrollment in the school. Granting of such a petition is purely discretionary and shall be based on such considerations as availability of space, the child's special needs, and/or any other reasons.

Enrollment of a student pursuant to this section shall be made contingent upon his or her parents or guardian signing a contract guaranteeing the payment of tuition and/or any and all other expenses associated with the education of that student and the payment in advance for each semester it is anticipated that the student will be enrolled in the Narragansett School. Narragansett School System (NSS) and Town of Narragansett employees shall be eligible for a discounted tuition rate (section IV above).

V.A.1. Students' Residence for School Purposes (continued)

The process for the Superintendent's review of requests for non-resident student attendance will involve but may not be limited to the following:

1. Completion of a preliminary information request and agreement entitled "Non-Resident Request for Student Attendance" (Appendix D Form).
2. Receipt of a request in writing from parent(s)/guardian(s) stating reason(s) for placement in Narragansett.
3. Evaluation of space available in the applicable school and grade which would involve discussion with principal and guidance personnel as appropriate.
4. Interview with parents.
5. Any request, if approved, is effective for one school year only and a new request must be submitted for consideration for any additional year.

VI. Admission of Future Residents

Upon good and substantial proof that parent(s)/guardian(s) shall become residents of the Town of Narragansett during the next school semester, a student may be enrolled in the Narragansett School System at the recommendation of the Superintendent. Should the student not become a resident as represented in writing to the Superintendent during that semester, the Superintendent shall have the right to recover tuition for that child during that period from his or her parent(s) or guardian(s). Prior to a student's admission pursuant to this Article, the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the child and the Superintendent shall sign an agreement authorizing recovery of tuition.

VII. Transportation.

Transportation for individual non-resident students will not be provided.

VIII. Students in Transition (Homeless)

Please refer to Policy V.A.1.a. Registration of Students in Transition (Homeless) for specific information related to homeless students.

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Narragansett School System
Narragansett, Rhode Island

Policy V.A.1. Residency Policy Appendix A.

**NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL SYSTEM
CERTIFICATE OF RESIDENCY**

I hereby certify that I am the parent/legal guardian of _____ who resides with me at _____ Narragansett, RI. Furthermore, I hereby agree that I will be responsible to notify the Superintendent of Schools of the Narragansett School System should I, or my child/ward changes our residence to an address outside the Town of Narragansett.

I also realize that in order to attend the Narragansett School System it is necessary that my child/ward be a resident of the Town of Narragansett. Accordingly, I hereby agree to be responsible for reasonable tuition for my child/ward should his/her residence change to outside the Town of Narragansett.

This responsibility shall run from the date of child/ward change of address until the date upon which the Superintendent of Schools is notified of such change of address.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature
(Certificate of Residency)
(Signed under the pains and penalty of perjury)

Date

Policy V.A.1. Residency Policy Appendix B.

NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL SYSTEM
NOTICE OF DISTRICT'S DETERMINATION OF NON-RESIDENCY

Dear _____:

This office has determined that _____ is not a resident of the town/city of Narragansett, Rhode Island for school purposes. The reason for non-resident status is:

- ___ The student does not physically reside in the district.
- ___ The student lives in the district, but not with a parent, and the reason for living apart from the parent(s) is not for a substantial reason other than to attend this district's school.
- ___ The student has not shown that he/she is an emancipated minor.
- ___ Exceptions to school residency under Rhode Island General Law 16-64-8 do not apply.*
- ___ A legal guardian was appointed for no substantial reason other than to change his/her school residence.

RIGHT TO APPEAL

- If you disagree with this determination of school residency, you may appeal this decision directly to the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. Written appeals, signed by a parent or guardian of the student, may be submitted to:

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education
R.I. Department Education
255 Westminster Street
Providence RI 02903
Fax # 401-222-6178

RIGHTS OF STUDENTS ALREADY ENROLLED

- If the student is enrolled and attending school at the time of the district's determination of non-residency, and the parent or guardian disagrees with the district's determination of school residency, the student should remain enrolled until an expedited hearing can be held at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

_____ or _____
Principal Attendance Officer

* R.I.G.L. 16-64-8 permits a student who changes his or her residence during the course of a semester to complete the semester in his/her original school district. This law also permits a student to complete his or her senior year in his/her original school district if he/she changes residence after completion of his/her junior year.

**NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL SYSTEM
VERIFICATION OF GUARDIANSHIP
WHEN NOT RESIDING WITH PARENTS**

Student’s Residence for School Purposes

A child is entitled to enroll in the Narragansett School System even when not residing with their parents in the following cases: the child has no living parents, has been abandoned by his or her parents, or when parents are unable to care for their child. As long as a student’s residence separate and apart from his or her parents is for some substantial reason other than for the purpose of school attendance, the child is entitled to enroll. The adult who is caring for the child must provide documentation which indicates that substantial reason and the Superintendent of Schools will review and approve or deny the registration.

The following is acceptable for this verification:

1. Legal documentation of guardianship or court placement.
2. A letter from the parent indicating that the child is living with another adult. This letter should state the facts of the living arrangement. It should give some indication of the substantial need for this arrangement.
3. If a letter from the parent cannot be obtained, the adult registering the child can submit a letter outlining the substantial reason(s) for this arrangement.

As part of the registration process, this documentation must be provided to the Superintendent.

Name of Student _____

Name of Adult _____

I submit the attached as explanation of the substantial reasons I am caring for the child forenamed.

Superintendent Verification: I have reviewed the attached and approve/deny the registration of the above named student.

Superintendent
Narragansett School System

Date

Policy V.A.1. Residency Policy Appendix D.

**Narragansett School System
Non-Resident Request for Student Attendance**

To be completed by Parents/Guardians:

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Child's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Grade Level: _____

Anticipated Start Date: _____

Reason for Request: (please attach a written statement).

We hereby agree to pay tuition in the amount of _____ for the student's attendance at Narragansett _____ School for the _____ school year. Any failure to make payment as requested prior to commencement of the semester will result in the immediate withdrawal of the student from the Narragansett School System.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

To be completed by Superintendent:

I have reviewed the intent of the above parents/guardians.

Comments:

Superintendent of Schools

Date