

A student who is a permanent resident of Lee County is eligible to enroll in the schools of the Lee County School System.

Residency – Residency as applied to this policy shall mean the place where the student lives with a parent, guardian, or other person, unless the student is an emancipated minor. The student must be an occupant of a dwelling located within the school system. Proof of residence in the school district will be required when a student enrolls and whenever a change of residence occurs, unless the student is homeless. Individuals not legally admitted into the country shall not be denied a free public education. No student will be registered until residence within district has been proven.

For the purposes of this policy, permanent resident students are those who live in Lee County under the following circumstances:

1. Students who live full-time in Lee County with one (1) or more natural or adoptive parents.
2. If the natural parents were never married, the enrolling parent, other than the mother, must provide an official court order showing they retain primary physical custody.
3. If the natural parents are separated or divorced, that parent who is a resident of Lee County and who retains primary physical custody of the child in question under an order entered either by the Superior or Juvenile Court shall be determinative as far as residency is concerned.
4. If a divorce decree awards joint physical custody, the order awarding such custody must show that the parent who resides in Lee County has the child the majority of time for the purposes of establishing residency.
5. Where the child is in the legal and physical custody of one who is not a natural parent, the court order awarding such custody must be an order of the Superior or Juvenile Court which was granted in the context of a custody matter concerning the child in question.
6. Non-custodial parents, persons standing “in loco parentis” of transitioning military children, or grandparents with a properly executed power of attorney may enroll children under their care. They shall perform duties and responsibilities that otherwise are exercised by the parent.
7. Guardianship issued by the Probate Court may be reviewed as evidence in establishing residency.

Students moving into or living in Lee County without parents or guardians will be reviewed by school officials to determine if residency requirements are being met. Residency established without parents or guardians for the primary purpose of attending Lee County Schools is not valid. Any non-resident student who is registered under falsified information shall be immediately withdrawn from the school system.

NONRESIDENT STUDENTS

Students who are not lawful residents of the Lee County School District shall not be permitted to enroll in any Lee County school, except under the following circumstances:

1. Children of nonresident, full-time employees will be allowed to attend the school where the parent is located without paying tuition. Children of non-resident full-time employees, who are assigned to system-wide positions, will be allowed to attend a school designated one time by the parent/employee without paying tuition. Other children of nonresident, full-time employees will be allowed to attend school in Lee County on a space available basis by paying tuition to be set and determined by the board. Available space will be distributed in accordance with the order of the applications submitted.
2. Students who may be placed in Lee County by other state agencies where state law requires the board to provide an education in the Lee County schools.
3. Students whose parents are establishing a permanent residency in Lee County who may seek to enroll at the beginning of a year or semester even though the family may not have moved into the county by that date (i.e., a new house being completed or closing on a house under contract). Such students will be allowed to attend Lee County schools at the beginning of a year or semester at the discretion of the Superintendent and upon payment of tuition by parents.
4. When special circumstances indicate that the best educational interest of the student is to remain in Lee County schools even though the parents may have moved their residence out of Lee County, the Superintendent may allow the student to remain, on a tuition basis, for a period of time not to exceed one school semester.
5. When Lee County residents temporarily reside outside of the county while transitioning from one Lee County residence to another Lee County residence, the Superintendent may allow the student to remain enrolled, tuition free, for a period of time not to exceed nine months.

The Superintendent/designee may prepare regulations and procedures to implement this policy.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

Anyone having a concern or complaint regarding placement or education of a homeless child will first present it orally and informally to the District homeless liaison who shall carry out the

dispute resolution process as defined in the state plan for the Education of Homeless Children and Youths.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ZONES

Zone of Attendance- The Lee County School System has established attendance zones for schools (West/East). Students attend schools located in zones according to the residence of their parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

When unusual circumstances exist, the Superintendent/designee may grant an exception to the zone requirements. Requests for exception shall be submitted in writing to the Superintendent through the appropriate Principal(s).

The Superintendent or designee determines the school or school zone within the District to which disabled students are assigned for appropriate educational services.

Parental Moves- Students whose parent(s)/guardian(s) move from one zone to another during the school year shall enroll at the school serving the zone into which their parent(s)/guardian(s) live. Parent(s)/guardian(s), however, may request Principal approval for the student to remain in the original school until the end of the current school year. If approved, transportation shall be provided by parent(s) or guardian(s).

Verification of Residence- The school system reserves the right at any time to request, direct, or perform a verification of student and/or legal custodial parent(s)/guardian(s) residency arrangements. This verification assures living arrangements do not circumvent or violate residency requirements.

This verification shall include a review of documentation establishing lawful parental power, authority, and responsibility to provide for the education of the child. Verification shall clearly indicate that the student lives physically and full time in the residence of the legal custodial parents.

- A. These verifications are also necessary to meet provisions of Georgia Code § 20-2-690.1. This code details legal custodial parent responsibilities for student attendance and also specifies conditions under which legal custodial parents may be prosecuted for failing to assure student attendance.
- B. The school system may charge parents, relatives, and/or other involved persons a tuition fee prorated for the time of unauthorized attendance. Legal action regarding false or misleading representation of residence and/or custody arrangements may also be taken.

School Choice: During the enrollment period (Early Spring), parent(s)/guardian(s) of pre-kindergarten-8th grade students have the option of choosing which school zone they want their children to attend for the following school year. If parent(s)/guardian(s) choose for their child to

attend an out of zone school, the parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for providing transportation to the out of zone school.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ENROLLMENT

1. Authority to Enroll

Under the provisions stated in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.1, a parent, guardian, or other person has the authority to enroll a student in a publicly funded Georgia school.

- a. A student who meets the age eligibility requirements is eligible to enroll in the school system if the student's parent or legal guardian (or the student in the case of an emancipated minor) is a resident of the school district. Proof of residence is required in accordance with school system regulations.
- b. If the person enrolling a student is not the parent and does not hold legal guardianship, the person enrolling the student may be eligible to apply for a Non-Parental Affidavit specifying the reasons why the student is living with the "other person".
- c. If the person enrolling the student is acting under the authority of a power of attorney executed by a parent or guardian serving in the military, the school shall allow the student to enroll. The school system may require proof of a duly executed power of attorney and/or certificate of acceptance as guardian, escort, or attorney. The school system shall not require such persons to obtain legal guardianship.