



Arizona Department of Education
Arizona Residency Guidelines
REVISED 6/1/2017

INTRODUCTION

Generally, under Arizona law, only Arizona residents are entitled to a free public education. The Arizona Department of Education (“Department”) is a designated steward of state education tax dollars and is responsible for providing state aid to school districts and charter schools for students who reside in Arizona. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-823, a school district or charter school may not include non-resident pupils in their student count and may not obtain state aid for those pupils.

The residency of a student is determined by the residency of the parent or guardian with whom the student lives. Accordingly, it is the responsibility of the school districts and charter schools that receive state aid to ensure that their student/parent residency information is accurate and verifiable.

The Department may audit schools to ensure that only Arizona resident students are reported for state aid. Any school district or charter school that cannot demonstrate the accuracy of any student’s residency status may be required to repay the state aid received for that student.

VERIFIABLE DOCUMENTATION

A.R.S. § 15-802(B) requires school districts and charter schools to obtain and maintain verifiable documentation of Arizona residency upon enrollment in an Arizona public school. This document is designed 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.** For members of the armed services, a school may enroll a student if the parent provides a hard-copy or electronic document of their transfer or pending transfer to a military installation within the state. The parent must provide official documentation of residency within ten days after the arrival date which may include a temporary on-base billeting facility as their address. **PROOF OF RESIDENCY IS NOT REQUIRED FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS.** 42 U.S.C. § 11 432(g)(3)(C)(i).

In general, students will fall into one of two 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 or 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.

1. 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** 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)¹:

- Valid Arizona driver's license, Arizona identification card
- Valid Arizona motor vehicle registration
- Valid Arizona Address Confidentiality Program authorization card
- Property deed
- Mortgage documents
- Property tax bill
- Rental agreement or lease (including Section 8 agreement or off-base military housing)
- Utility bill (water, electric, gas, cable, phone)
- Bank or credit card statement
- W-2 wage statement
- Payroll stub
- Certificate of tribal enrollment (506 Form) or other identification issued by a recognized Indian tribe located in Arizona
- Other documentation from a state, tribal, or federal agency (Social Security Administration, Veterans' Administration, Arizona Department of Economic Security, etc.)
- Temporary on-base billeting facility (for military families)

2. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) that does not maintain his or her own residence: The parent or legal guardian must have an **affidavit of shared residency** form completed 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 for 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 bearing the name and address of the person who maintains the residence. A model affidavit of shared residence form is available for schools at the end of this document.

USE OF AND RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS BY SCHOOLS

School officials must **retain a copy** of the attestations or affidavits and copies of any supporting documentation presented for each student (photocopies acceptable) that school officials believe establish validity. Documents presented may be different in each circumstance, and unique to the living situation of the student. Documents retained by the school district or charter school may be used as an indication of residency; however, documentation is subject to audit by the Department. Personally identifiable information other than name and address (SSN, account numbers, etc.) should be redacted from the documentation either by the parent/guardian or the school official prior to filing. **INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO ARIZONA PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS CONFIDENTIAL AND ONLY USED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.**

ATTENDANCE AT ARIZONA SCHOOLS BY NON-RESIDENTS

United States citizens that are not residents of Arizona may attend Arizona public schools upon payment of tuition pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-823(A). Tuition shall be set by the school pursuant to the formula set forth in A.R.S. § 15-824(E). Citizens of a foreign country that are not Arizona residents may attend public high schools in Arizona for up to 12 months upon payment of tuition if they abide by the requirements of federal immigration law. For more information regarding foreign students attending public high schools, see the guidance from the U.S. State Department at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/study-exchange/student/foreign-students-in-public-schools.html> Schools that want to enroll foreign citizens must

¹ For participants in the Arizona Address Confidentiality Program ("ACP"), an ACP Authorization Card may be accepted in lieu of documentation showing the residential address or property description where the student resides.

obtain SEVP certification. For more information regarding SEVP certification, see the guidance at: <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/i17>