

JF: RESIDENCY, SCHOOL ADMISSIONS and ENTRANCE AGE

School Admission/Residency Requirements

All children of school age who actually reside in the Town of Braintree will be entitled to attend the Braintree Public Schools. "Actual residence" shall mean that the Town of Braintree is the place which is most closely connected with the primary purpose of a dwelling and is the place where the child and his/her parents intend to remain permanently. Temporary residence in a motel, hotel, or any other building in the Town of Braintree does not constitute "actual residence". In such circumstances, however, the child may be allowed to enroll in accordance with the requirements and limitations of state and federal laws and regulations.

A student between the minimum and maximum ages established by established by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education who has not received a diploma or certificate from a secondary school shall be eligible to attend the schools if:

Kindergarten student is 5 years of age on or before August 31st of the enrollment year. Grade 1 student is 6 years of age on or before August 31st of the enrollment year. Exceptions to Grade 1 age requirement will be considered in accordance with Braintree Public Schools early admission to first grade protocol.

The student permanently, not temporarily or sporadically, resides in Braintree with his/her parent(s) or legal guardian.

The student actually resides in Braintree with someone other than his/her parent(s) or legal guardian for the purpose of attending the schools and tuition for such student is paid in accordance with this policy.

The student actually resides in Braintree with someone other than his/her parent(s) or legal guardian for the purpose of temporarily ameliorating personal extreme hardship, and may attend the schools at the discretion of the Superintendent and with a completed and notarized Caregiver Affidavit Form.

The student, regardless of place of residence, has been selected to attend the schools under a statutory program for the education of non-resident students, duly accepted by the School Committee.

The student, regardless of place of residence, meets the requirements of "Admission of Non-Residents" section of this policy.

Prior to entry, the student has met all MA Department of Public Health immunization requirements in accordance with 105 CMR 220.



Determination of Eligibility

The Superintendent, or his/her designee(s), shall determine whether a student is eligible to attend the Schools. In determining whether a student actually resides in Braintree for purposes of this policy, the following factors shall be considered:

Whether the student physically occupies a dwelling in Braintree, regardless of whether such occupancy is based upon ownership, lease, or consent of a person legally entitled to occupy the dwelling;

With whom the student lives, such as parent(s), legal guardian, custodial parent after a divorce, relative, or other person and the duration of such living arrangement;

If a student resides with someone other than his/her parent(s), legal guardian, or the parent with physical custody after a divorce, the reasons for doing so;

The amount of time actually spent by the student in the dwelling in Braintree;

Whether the student's physical belongings are stored at the dwelling;

Whether mail concerning the student, such as mail from doctors, etc., is addressed to the dwelling;

Whether the residence is the center of the student's domestic, social, and civic life;

Whether the student was included as an occupant of the dwelling for purposes of the town census;

Such other information as the Superintendent or his/her designee(s) may deem relevant to determining where a student actually resides including, but not limited to, a fully completed Affidavit of Occupancy and proof of residency documents requested during registration process.

Non-Resident Students

Except as expressly provided for herein, non-resident students shall not be admitted to the Braintree Public Schools (BPS). The Superintendent may, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations, permit a non-resident student to attend the schools as follows:

- A student whose family provides satisfactory evidence that he/she will be residing in Braintree within a grading period and would be eligible to attend the schools under policy JF may, in accordance with regulations adopted by the Superintendent, and with the permission of the Superintendent, attend the Schools prior to actually residing in Braintree.
- The Superintendent may permit a non-resident student to attend Braintree High School for not more than one year under a reciprocal arrangement with the Schools in the Town in which the student resides pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 76, Sec 12, where such temporary attendance is (i) in the best educational interests of the student, (ii) there is no reason to believe that the student presents any risk to other students or employees of the Schools.
- Students who are entitled to attend the BPS under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.



- BHS seniors already enrolled in the BPS, who move out of the Town on or after the first day of school in a given school year, may complete the current school year provided they have made the Superintendent of Schools aware of the move in writing within thirty (30) business days of such move. Other students, in any school, who move out of the Town of Braintree on or after April 1st of a given school year may complete the current school year provided they have made the Superintendent of Schools aware of the move in writing within five (5) business days of such move. In all of the foregoing circumstances, students are responsible for their own travel arrangements to and from school after they move out of the Town of Braintree.
- Students officially enrolled in the BPS through the METCO program.

Transportation of Non-Residents

Except as otherwise provided in state and federal laws and other policies, transportation of a non-resident student to and from school shall remain the responsibility of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian.

Enforcement

Should a question arise concerning any student's residency elsewhere while attending Braintree Public Schools, the student's residency will be subject to further inquiry and/or investigation. Such questions concerning residency may arise on the basis of incomplete, suspicious, or contradictory proofs of address; information provided to administration; correspondence that is returned to the Braintree Public Schools because of an invalid or unknown address, or other grounds.

The Superintendent may request additional documentation, may use the assistance of the Braintree Police Department's Community Service Officer and/or may obtain the services of an investigative agency to conduct investigations into student residences. All reports will be provided to the Superintendent, who shall make the final determination of residency.

Upon initial determination by the Superintendent that a student is actually residing in a city or town other than Braintree, the student's enrollment in Braintree Public Schools shall be terminated immediately.

Penalty

Only students who qualify under this policy shall be eligible to attend the BPS. Any person who knowingly misrepresents facts concerning a student's actual place of residence or reasons for residing in Braintree, or any other material facts concerning a student's eligibility to attend the schools under this policy in order to enroll a student in the schools or to avoid paying tuition may be liable for the consequences. BPS reserves the right to recover restitution based upon the costs of educational services provided during the period of non-residency from the parent(s), guardians, or caregiver.

Adopted by School Committee: 8/28/2017

