

OLCHS Residency Validation Guidelines

The Law

Children are entitled to a tuition-free public education in the school district wherein they reside. A child is presumed to be a resident of the school district wherein both the child and the person(s) who has legal custody of the child reside. A school district has a legal obligation to charge tuition to non-resident students according to the per pupil district expenditure (over \$10,000 per school year).

Residency Enforcement a Top Priority at OLCHS

With a reputation of academic, athletic and extra-curricular excellence, OLCHS steadily attracts new families to its district. This makes enforcement of legal residency necessary as more families with school-age children move into our community. The OLCHS Board of Education remains vigilant on this issue and procedures have been implemented to identify and prosecute cases of non-residency. All students/parents must validate their residency within District #229 boundaries **on an annual basis**. Students and parents/legal guardians will both need to attend Student Registration on August 3-4 to provide appropriate residency documentation.

Documentation Required

TWO different current (June/July/August 2010) utility bills (originals only) in the name of the parent/legal guardian indicating District #229 address; i.e.: gas, electric, water, garbage (cell phone bills not accepted);

AND

ONE of the following indicating the same District #229 address: current mortgage statement, OR proof of current homeowner's insurance, OR current signed lease with name and phone number of landlord to contact;

AND

An Illinois Driver's License or State ID for the parent/legal guardian indicating the same District #229 address;

AND

If the adult registering the student is not named on the student's birth certificate, **proof of custody/guardianship will be required. An official court order will need to be presented demonstrating custodial rights over the student.**

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is proof of residency required on an annual basis?

According to state law, the residency of the child and the parent/legal guardian determines the child's right to attend the local public school tuition-free. OLCHS, like many area suburban public schools, has experienced an increase in attempts to illegally enroll students who do not reside (or whose parent/legal guardian does not legally reside) within the boundaries of District 229. An annual check on residency helps to prevent these illegal acts.

Why is proof of custody/guardianship required?

Students are entitled to a tuition-free public education only in the school district where their parents/legal guardians reside. Schools must also determine who is legally responsible for the child, who to contact in an emergency, and who can make educational decisions for the child.

What if the parents of a student are divorced?

The parent registering the student must establish residency within District #229 boundaries as described above. The student must reside full time at this parent's address, and this parent must demonstrate legal custody over the student.

Can either parent attend Student Registration on August 3-4?

Yes, so long as both parents have custodial rights over the student. If residency documentation is in one parent's name only, the unlisted parent may still register the student, so long as he/she has the same last name and possesses identification validating residency at the same address.

What if a parent/legal guardian and student are living with a friend or family member with no formal lease agreement established and no utility bills in the parent/legal guardian's name?

OLCHS will accept notarized statements as proof of residency on a TEMPORARY BASIS. All parties must sign a notarized affidavit detailing the arrangements. The person with whom the parent and student reside **must also appear at Student Registration on August 3-4 with all residency documentation as outlined above**. The parent/legal guardian must also submit a copy of a W-2, lease, pay stub, bank statement, or other acceptable proof of living at the address used on the notarized affidavit. If you are utilizing the Illinois Residency Affidavit, please be aware that within 30 days we will require the legal parent/guardian of said student to prove residency with documentation. You will also be subject to random residency checks by our police liaison, at which time you will have to show proof that the student and legal parent/guardian live at said address.

For Further Information please contact the OLCHS District Office at 708-741-5602.