



Milton Public Schools

School Committee Presentation

Residency Update

May 2, 2012

MILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS – RESIDENCY UPDATE

Introduction

- The Milton Public Schools face the challenge of students attending the schools who are not “residents” of the town.
- This problem has been proactively addressed over the last four years by the current school administration.
- In addressing this issue the Milton Public Schools follows Massachusetts General Laws (CH 76, Sec. 5, Sec. 6) and Milton School Committee policy on Residency (Policy JFAA) that was originally adopted in 2004.

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Residency Positions:

- The Milton Public Schools employ the following positions who are responsible for registration, residency and investigation of residency cases:
 - Part Time Registrar
 - Full Time Residency Coordinator
 - Two Stipended Milton Police Officers
 - Collectively, these positions spend approximately 76 hrs. per week on residency.

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Enrollment Process:

- The Milton Public Schools has updated its enrollment process to ensure proactive practices that would reduce the likelihood of a student being enrolled in the system improperly.
- One example of this would be the new practice of using “home visits” by our investigative team as a mandatory measure for alternative cases.
- Additionally the enrollment process has parents/ guardians and landlords sign notarized affidavits attesting to the authenticity of the documents presented and states the possible legal ramifications of falsifying any of the said documents.

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The Data:

Statistics from this school year (September 2011-April 2012):

- 171 Student Cases Investigated
- 101 have been “resolved”
- Of those cases resolved: 38 students have been excluded for violation of the residency policy and 63 students have re-established their residence in town to be in compliance.
- There are currently 70 Student Cases that remain under review:
 - 11 students pending exclusion
 - 5 FDK students enrolling for the 2012-13 school year with “alternative” living situations awaiting meetings
 - 54 students in the re-establish / investigative mode

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The Data:

- On average, over the last three school years the Milton Public Schools has investigated approximately 140 cases and excluded 60-65 students per year.

**Data inclusive of years 2008- 2011 School Years.

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Complications in Determining “Residency”:

- McKinney Vento (Federal Law for Homeless) – Increase in the number of families declaring “homeless status.”
- The vagueness of the state law (CH 76, Sec. 5) in regards to guardianship continues to be challenged by the district in court and with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).
- There is a rise in parents of school children moving back in with their parents. This increase has moved the district to reexamine the enrollment process to ensure residency for these “alternative cases.”

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- The MPS Administration and School Committee are presently exploring the feasibility of “restitution” with legal counsel.

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How do I report a residency case?

You can call 617-898-1038 or send an email to

“residency@miltonps.org.”