



Milton Public Schools

Residency Update

School Committee Presentation

September 18, 2013

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 five years by the current school administration with the hiring of a Residency Coordinator.
- In addressing this issue the Milton Public Schools follow Massachusetts General Laws (CH 76, Sec. 5, Sec. 6) and Milton School Committee policy on Residency (Policy JFAA) that was originally adopted in 2004; and re-approved in March 2013.

MILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS – RESIDENCY UPDATE

Residency Positions:

- The Milton Public Schools employ the following positions who are responsible for registration, residency and investigation of residency cases:
 - Part Time Registrar
 - Residency Coordinator
 - Two Stipended Milton Police Officers
- Collectively, these positions spend approximately 76 hrs. per week on residency.
- The direct cost of the residency work is approximately \$62,000 annually, inclusive the Residency Coordinator salary and the two stipends.
- This does not include the indirect cost of all Milton Public School staff who are involved a different levels during this process.

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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.
- ❑ If a guardian cannot provide components of the enrollment documents, they are then designated as a “Unique Registration”. This process involves a meeting with our Residency Coordinator and /or Assistant Superintendent to verify all documents. Additionally, the practice of using “home visits” by our investigative team is a mandatory measure for Unique Registration cases.
- ❑ 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 and that the district reserves the right to do home visits and investigate with the support of the Milton Police.

MILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS – RESIDENCY UPDATE

JULY 2012- JULY 2013

Residency List- 447 students completed

- ❑ 57 students excluded for violation of the residency policy
- ❑ 35 students were excluded due to police investigations
- ❑ 22 Students were excluded through other means
 - ❑ *(returned mail, documents, staff reporting)*
- ❑ 30 students excluded for various reasons then re-instated
- ❑ 79 students investigated for residency and resolved without exclusion
- ❑ 47 students completed missing documents from registration
- ❑ 217 students completed re-establish packets
- ❑ 139 students received home visit as part of the Unique Registration process

MILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS – RESIDENCY UPDATE

JULY 2013- JULY 2014 (SO FAR)

Residency list - 201 students pending and completed

- ❑ 8 students excluded just in the months of August & September
- ❑ 11 students pending police investigation and pending exclusions (this week)
- ❑ 18 students need police observation for residency investigation
- ❑ 41 students pending residency establishment after relocating to new address
- ❑ 20 students with incomplete documents for registration-need to complete

72 student residency resolved

- ❑ 20 students resolved by MPD clearance
- ❑ 8 students have been excluded
- ❑ 44 students have re-established by submitting packet documents

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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 regard 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.”

MILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS – RESIDENCY UPDATE

How do I report a residency case?

You can call 617-696-4470 ext 5516 or send an email to

“residency@miltonps.org.”

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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