



ENROLLMENT AND RESIDENCY

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Who can attend a DC public school (including charter schools) without paying tuition?

Only resident students of the District can attend DC public schools tuition-free, regardless of immigration or homeless status. A student's residency is based only on the residency of the parent, guardian, custodian, or other primary caregiver¹. To be a resident, you have to:

- Be physically present in DC; and
- Submit valid documentation of DC residence, as described below.

When do I show my proof of DC residency?

Families attending public schools in the District must re-enroll and demonstrate DC residency annually. The school will check proof of residency annually at the time of enrollment or re-enrollment.

What do I need to prove DC residency?

It is critical that the documentation support the residency of the person enrolling the child and that person should be the parent, guardian, custodian, or other primary caregiver. Acceptable documentation of residency includes:

One of the following:

- Recent pay stub
- Unexpired official documentation of financial assistance from the Government of the District of Columbia
- Certified copy of Form D40
- Current Military housing orders
- Embassy letter

Or two of the following:

- Unexpired DC motor vehicle registration
- Unexpired lease or rental agreement with a separate proof of payment of rent
- Unexpired DC motor vehicle operator's permit or official government issued non-driver identification
- One utility bill (only gas, electric, and water bills are acceptable) with a separate paid receipt showing payment of the bill

¹ There are specific requirements to be a primary care giver for the purposes of enrollment and residency. Please contact osse.residency@dc.gov for more information.

If my residency or guardianship is complicated, who can I talk to?

The enrolling school is available to help answer questions and the OSSE Office of Enrollment and Residency is also available and can be reached at osse.residency@dc.gov.

What if I am not a DC resident?

Non-residents attending public schools in the District must pay tuition annually. Additionally, non-residents are only permitted to attend a DC public school if there are no eligible District residents on that school's waitlist for the specific grade level and must first enter into a tuition agreement.

Who do I tell when I suspect someone is not a DC resident but going to a public school in the District?

Please notify OSSE if you are aware of a non-resident attending a public school in DC. You can contact the tip hotline at (202) 715-6500 or via the online application at <https://dcforms.dc.gov/webform/osse-residency-fraud-prevention-form>.

Questions? Contact the Office of Enrollment and Residency at osse.residency@dc.gov.