



Frequently Asked Questions About the SFUSD Residency Policy

Please see the Enrollment Guide or website for more information on residency or refer to Board Policy 5102

What is considered to be “true residency”?

A San Francisco resident is an individual who is a full time occupant of a dwelling located in San Francisco who, on any given day, is likely to be at their stated address when not in work or in school. A minor’s residence is presumed to be the legal residence of the parent(s) or guardian(s) who have physical custody of the minor. Temporary residence in San Francisco, solely for the purpose of attending a SFUSD school, shall not be considered residency.

I live outside of San Francisco, but I also own property in San Francisco. Can I use my San Francisco address to enroll in school in SFUSD because I pay taxes in San Francisco?

A person who owns property in San Francisco, but does not reside in San Francisco, is not considered a resident. Business addresses may not be used as residences.

Can my child enroll into a SFUSD school if we live outside of San Francisco?

Any child may apply for an interdistrict permit request if they live outside of San Francisco. Non-residents do not participate in the regular enrollment process. Placement into schools will be granted only after all SF residents have been placed, usually in June or July, on a space-available basis.

What happens if the parents do not live together?

If the parents are separated and live at different addresses, the student must physically reside with the custodial parent at the reported San Francisco address for at least 50% of the time during the regular school year. If one of the parents resides outside of San Francisco, applications must include court documents outlining physical custody agreements.

My spouse and I live full-time in San Francisco but our child attends boarding school out of state. Can our child still apply for SFUSD schools?

Yes, students who attend boarding school in another state or country while their parents reside in San Francisco are considered residents. However, students who are applying for Lowell or language programs must meet eligibility requirements through admissions tests or language testing and cannot be exempt, nor can they take assessments remotely.

My child lives with the other parent and attends school out of the District, but I live full-time in San Francisco. Can I apply for a SFUSD school and have my child move in with me if we receive a placement into a desired school?

No, the child must be living with the parent/guardian who resides in San Francisco at the time of application and throughout the time of enrollment.

When the parents are separated and live at different addresses, the student must physically reside with the custodial parent at the reported San Francisco address for at least 50% of the time during the regular school year.

I have been a full-time resident of San Francisco but I am currently living and working outside of San Francisco. I plan to return to San Francisco before the next school year starts. Can I apply for my child to attend SFUSD?

If you are living and working outside of San Francisco, you may apply to enroll your child once you return to San Francisco as a full time resident. In order to enroll in SFUSD, the parent/guardian must

continually reside in San Francisco at the time of application and for the entire period of enrollment in SFUSD.

If I apply for SFUSD for my child and receive a school assignment, and then we move at a later time, what will happen to the school assignment?

Any change of address must be completed with the District within 14 days of the move. If the move is within the city of SF, there is no impact on school assignment. However, if address verifications or investigations reveal that a false residency claim resulted in a school assignment during the enrollment process, the school assignment will be revoked.

If a family moves out of the city during the enrollment process, after applying as residents, then the assignment is subject to the interdistrict permit assignment process, pending approval of an interdistrict permit agreement with the district of residency.

What is residency fraud?

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are committing residency fraud if they submit an address that is not their true residence in the application and enrollment process or in other documents submitted to the District.

If the District alleges that I may have used a false address, can I challenge the decision?

If the parent/guardian feels that the District's preliminary decision to revoke enrollment was made in error, s/he may submit a letter and supporting evidence to the EPC within 7 days of notification to challenge the decision. The parent will receive a meeting with a representative from the EPC to discuss the challenge. The District will respond within a reasonable amount of time to notify the parent/guardian of whether the decision to revoke enrollment has been sustained or reversed. The student will remain enrolled in school until the decision to revoke enrollment is sustained or reversed. This decision shall be final. It is likely that a challenge will result in additional investigative costs and parents will be responsible for the additional costs if the revocation is upheld.

What happens if the District investigates and I am caught using a false address?

The student will be withdrawn from school and the parent must reimburse the District for investigative costs. The District may also pursue civil or criminal action against anyone making false claims.

If the child does not reside in San Francisco, they must enroll into their district of residence. An interdistrict permit will not be approved for enrollment into SFUSD for one year after revocation of enrollment due to fraud.