SFUSD Board Approves Updated Residency Policy
School Board Reaffirms Commitment to Ensure that SF Residents Have Priority

March 23, 2011 (San Francisco) - Last night the San Francisco Board of Education approved a policy that further clarifies the school district’s established residency requirements and the procedures for revoking a student’s enrollment if residency fraud is discovered.

In March of 2010, the board approved a new student assignment policy that gives weight to a student’s residential address. The board directed the superintendent to aggressively investigate the accuracy of home addresses and to revoke school assignments if fraudulent information was submitted.

“The school district is taking this seriously. Our priority is students in San Francisco,” said board president Hydra Mendoza.

The district has significantly increased its ability to verify all documentation submitted by families during the application process and to determine whether an applicant falsified information. The policy defines a resident as a full time occupant of a dwelling located in San Francisco, with an exception for homeless students. It states that “If the Superintendent or designee reasonably determines in their discretion that a student’s enrollment and/or school placement is based on a false claim of residency, address, guardianship/caregiver, or any other false information, the student’s enrollment will be revoked.”

SFUSD will continue to accept interdistrict transfer applications, for those residing outside the city, to obtain admission to a San Francisco public school. Interdistrict transfer is available only after students who live in the city are placed in the schools to which they have applied. Approximately 1,000 students in the district have interdistrict transfers.

“We understand that parents falsely claiming San Francisco residency may have the best possible motives, namely, to obtain the best education for their children,” said superintendent Carlos Garcia. “However, by securing a spot through a false residency claim, parents committing address fraud are displacing San Francisco children whose parents have the same hopes for their children, and who, in many cases, have been turned away from their desired schools after having diligently followed the rules.”

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