

NATICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Committee Meeting
December 23, 2022
11:30 AM
School Committee Room, Third Floor, Town Hall and Virtual

Posted Date: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 @11:00AM, Reposted on Wednesday, December 21, 2022 @11:56AM, Reposted on Wednesday, December 21, 2022 @2:35PM

11:30AM Meeting - Virtual Meeting Accessed Via: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2038566119?pwd=TmtsdxgXenQ0YXRlN1FicHVpd3hEZz09> Meeting ID: 203 856 6119 Passcode: 987179 One tap mobile +13126266799,,2038566119# US (Chicago) +16465588656,,2038566119# US (New York) Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) Meeting ID: 203 856 6119 Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2038566119?pwd=TmtsdxgXenQ0YXRlN1FicHVpd3hEZz09> . If any member of the public, attending the meeting virtually, wishes to take advantage of public speak, they should email the Subcommittee Chair, Dr. Donna McKenzie (dmckenzie@natickps.org), one hour prior to the start of the meeting. Your email should include your name, town and your request to be called upon during the public speak portion of the agenda. The Subcommittee Chair will then announce your name and you will be unmuted and prompted to turn on your video for your opportunity to share your remarks. Per our public speak policy, each speaker will have up to 3 minutes.

Posted In Accordance with Provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Sections 18-25

OPEN SESSION

PUBLIC SPEAK

Public Speak is scheduled for a period of fifteen minutes. Each speaker will be permitted a maximum of three minutes during which time they can speak about topics within the scope of responsibility of the School Committee. All remarks will be addressed through the School Committee Chair. Public Speak is not a time for debate or response to comments by the School Committee.

Subcommittee Meeting Item

1. Discussion of and Possible Vote of Calendar, Religious Holidays and Homework Policy
 1. Proposed 2023-2024 School Calendar [one with new holidays](#) and [one without](#)
Please review page 2 of this [DRAFT SOP document](#) to see the impact of adding two holidays a year: Diwali and Eid-al-Fitr
- LINK to Policy Subcommittee Resources and Documentation
2. Review and Vote Proposed Policy Changes to JKAA -Physical Restraint of Students
LINK to Policy Subcommittee Resources and Documentation
3. Vote Approval of the Flag/Sign Policy
LINK to Policy Subcommittee Resources and Documentation
4. Overview of New Student Cell Phone (and Other Electronic Devices) Policy
LINK to Policy Subcommittee Resources and Documentation

5. Discussion and Vote of Amended Policies (JC-DISTRICTING POLICY, JCA-ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS TO SCHOOLS, JF-SCHOOL ADMISSIONS, JF-A-RESIDENCY POLICY)

LINK to Policy Subcommittee Resources and Documentation

Agenda items will be addressed in an order determined by the chair. Times are approximate.

ITEM TITLE: Discussion of and Possible Vote of Calendar, Religious Holidays and Homework Policy

DATE: 12/23/2022

ITEM TYPE: Action, Report, Discussion

ITEM SUMMARY: 1. Proposed 2023-2024 School Calendar [one with new holidays](#) and [one without](#)

Please review page 2 of this [DRAFT SOP document](#) to see the impact of adding two holidays a year: Diwali and Eid-al-Fitr

[LINK to Policy Subcommittee Resources and Documentation](#)

**BACKGROUND
INFORMATION:**

RECOMMENDATION:

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	File Name	Type
NPS Holiday, School	NPS_Holiday__School_work_and_Religious_Service_Observances_Listening_Session_(1)_(1).pdf	Cover Memo

Holiday/Homework Calendar Summary Document

Work by the Policy Subcommittee and Natick Administration

[Timeline](#) of work by the Subcommittee

Link to the NPS [Proposed Policy and SOP | Holidays and Cultural Observances](#)

[Other Districts Calendar Summary](#)

[Holidays Cataloged-](#) Religious or Federal, Category 1,2,3 and dates in the future years

NPS Holiday, School work and Religious Service Observances Listening Sessions:

Parent/Community Session Notes:

- Tuesday, April 5th
- 18 attendees
- Presentation by Dr. Nolin and members of the Policy Subcommittee

Notes:

/Being seen is important

/My children have asked for this and they are tired of having to ask again for their holiday to be recognized.

/Adding more days is too much on families and work schedules

Feedback from Survey (2 responses)

Was tonight helpful?

Yes it was nice seeing other families feel the same way that the education piece is more important than taking off the actual holiday; nice to hear how appreciative families are of how Natick tries to educate everyone on various holidays

Can you share one important idea or question that you will take from tonight?

Can you put a policy in place no homework or test on a holiday? Would help everyone feel included; but adding 6 more holidays is too many

The need to keep a balanced sense of educational and family needs

Optional: Please share your secular and or cultural/religious tradition

Jewish (husband is catholic)

Jewish, fall holidays and Passover, mainly

Monday, May 16th - Staff Holiday Homework Calendar Discussion at Kennedy 2:15 - 3:15 p.m.

- Approx 10 staff attended
- Equity perspective - several felt it was important to include Diwali and Eid
- Also curious about schools who have decided to go to federal holidays only
- Homework has not been an issue on these days for 5th and 6th grade. Very sensitive. Sometimes give long range assignments so that kids who do not celebrate at a certain time can do the work, others who do have the time they need to complete the task - good for teaching them planning too.
- Asked about how many students need to be out to be considered a low day of attendance
- Teachers need to calendar the whole year early in the school year - first 2 weeks - decide when we will do star renaissance, what unit when, ½ days drop curriculum and do SEL - then MCAS in March/April and we are only ⅔ done w/ the curriculum.
- Start and Stop of the beginning of the school year - in some ways it can build stamina, in others it is choppy and disruptive to digging into the work
- Anecdotally it feels as if there been an increase in kids being out around certain holidays - if kids don't have school on a random Tuesday, family takes the Monday off too and makes it into a long holiday - difficult from teacher perspective with kids in and out all year

Monday, May 23rd - Student Holiday Homework Calendar Discussion at Kennedy 2:15 - 3:15 p.m.

- Approx 12 students attended
- Like learning about new cultures and sharing their own

Tuesday, May 10th NHS - Optional discussion with Dr. Nolin re: religious holidays 7:30 - 8:10 a.m.

- Was this recorded?

Student Meeting with Dr. Nolin at NHS - 11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

- 100 students over 3 lunch periods
- Group of Freshman admitted not knowing about some of the holidays, would like to learn
- One student spoke about her experience of Eid and it falling every year near finals. Stress of missing the day, making it up especially at such a critical time
- Even when you know it is excused... you know that you will have a ton of catch up work so sometimes it is not possible or doesn't feel feasible.
- Very sympathetic to friends who have had to deal with this year over year.

***Significant Religious Holiday identified through listening sessions with Religious Leaders**

January:

Christmas (Orthodox)
Lunar New Year

April:

Good Friday and Easter (Roman)
Good Friday and Easter (Orthodox)
Eid-Al-Fitr (Recommendation Bilal Miraz, Muslim Chaplin)
Passover (First and Last day) (Wednesday April 5th, Thursday April 13th, 2023)

September:

Rosh Hasanah
Yom Kipur*

November:

Diwali (Recommendation of Dr. Preeta Banerjee, Swait Dave)

December:

Christmas
Kwanzaa

Second layer of Religious Holidays

February:

Ash Wednesday (Roman) (Fr. Hines)

March:

Orthodox (Orthodox)
Holi* (including this at the Recommendation of Dr. Preeta Banerjee)
Purim (including this at the recommendation of Farrah Rubenstein)

May:

Shavuot (First and Last) (including this at the recommendation of Farrah Rubenstein)

September:

Sukkot

October:

Navratri and Durga Puja* (including this at the Recommendation of Dr. Preeta Banerjee)

ITEM TITLE: Review and Vote Proposed Policy Changes to JKAA -Physical Restraint of Students

DATE: 12/23/2022

ITEM TYPE: Action, Discussion

ITEM SUMMARY: LINK to Policy Subcommittee Resources and Documentation

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

RECOMMENDATION:

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	File Name	Type
Policy JKAA-Physical Restraint of Students	JKAA.pdf	Cover Memo

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT OF STUDENTS

Maintaining an orderly, safe environment conducive to learning is an expectation of all staff members of the school district. Further, students of the district are protected by law from the unreasonable use of physical restraint. Such restraint shall be used only in emergency situations as a last resort and with extreme caution after other lawful and less intrusive alternatives have failed or been deemed inappropriate.

When an emergency situation arises, and physical restraint is the only option deemed appropriate to prevent a student from injuring ~~themselves~~, another student or school community member, a teacher or employee or agent of the school district may use such reasonable force needed to protect students, other persons or themselves from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm.

Deleted: himself or herself

The definitions of forms of restraint shall be as defined in 603 CMR 46.02. The use of mechanical restraint, medical restraint, and seclusion is prohibited.

~~The power of the School Committee or of any teacher or other employee or agent of the Committee to maintain discipline on school property shall not include the right to inflict corporal punishment upon any student.~~

Formatted: Font color: Text 1

Physical restraint, including prone restraint where permitted under 603 CMR 46.03, shall be considered an emergency procedure of last resort and shall be prohibited except when a student's behavior poses a threat of assault, or imminent, serious, physical harm to themselves and/or others and the student is not responsive to verbal directives or other lawful and less intrusive behavior interventions are deemed inappropriate.

Formatted: Font color: Text 1

Formatted: After: 0", Line spacing: single

The Superintendent will develop procedures identifying:

- Appropriate responses to student behavior that may require immediate intervention;
- Methods of preventing student violence, self-injurious behavior, and suicide including crisis planning and de-escalation of potentially dangerous behaviors among groups of students or individuals;
- Descriptions and explanations of alternatives to physical restraint as well as the school's method of physical restraint for use in emergency situations;
- Descriptions of the school's training and procedures to comply with reporting requirements including, but not limited to making reasonable efforts to orally notify a parent of the use of restraint within 24 hours of its imposition;
- Procedures for receiving and investigating complaints;
- Methods for engaging parents in discussions about restraint prevention and use of restraint solely as an emergency procedure;
- A statement prohibiting: medication restraint, mechanical restraint, prone restraint unless permitted by 603 CMR 46.03(1)(b), seclusion, and the use of physical restraint in a manner inconsistent with 603 CMR 46.00;
- A process for obtaining Principal approval for a time out exceeding 30 minutes.

Each building Principal will identify staff members to serve as a school-wide resource to assist in ensuring proper administration of physical restraint. These staff members will participate in an in-depth training program in the use of physical restraint.

Natick Public Schools

In addition, each staff member will be trained regarding the school's physical restraint policy and accompanying procedures. The Principal will arrange training to occur in the first month of each school year, or for staff hired after the beginning of the school year, within a month of their employment.

Physical restraint is prohibited as a means of punishment, or as a response to destruction of property, disruption of school order, a student's refusal to comply with a school rule or staff directive, or verbal threats that do not constitute a threat of imminent, serious physical harm to the student or others.

Physical restraint is prohibited when it is medically contraindicated for reasons including, but not limited to, asthma, seizures, a cardiac condition, obesity, bronchitis, communication-related disabilities, or risk of vomiting;

The use of "time out" procedures during which a staff member remains accessible to the student shall not be considered "seclusion restraint."

This policy and its accompanying procedures shall be reviewed and disseminated to staff annually and made available to parents of enrolled students. The Superintendent shall provide a copy of the Physical Restraint regulations to each Principal, who shall sign a form acknowledging receipt thereof.

SOURCE: MASC Updated 2021

ADOPTED:

Deleted: August 2015

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 71 :37G; 603 CMR 46.00

ITEM TITLE:	Vote Approval of the Flag/Sign Policy
DATE:	12/23/2022
ITEM TYPE:	
ITEM SUMMARY:	LINK to Policy Subcommittee Resources and Documentation
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:	
RECOMMENDATION:	

ITEM TITLE:	Overview of New Student Cell Phone (and Other Electronic Devices) Policy
DATE:	12/23/2022
ITEM TYPE:	Action, Report, Discussion
ITEM SUMMARY:	LINK to Policy Subcommittee Resources and Documentation
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:	
RECOMMENDATION:	

ITEM TITLE: Discussion and Vote of Amended Policies (JC-DISTRICTING POLICY, JCA-ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS TO SCHOOLS, JF-SCHOOL ADMISSIONS, JF-A-RESIDENCY POLICY)

DATE: 12/23/2022

ITEM TYPE: Action, Discussion

ITEM SUMMARY: LINK to Policy Subcommittee Resources and Documentation

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

RECOMMENDATION:

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	File Name	Type
Original Policy JF - Residency Policy	Policy_JF_12.5.22_Vote.pdf	Cover Memo
JF-A Residency Policy - Replacement Policy for Original JF	Policy_JF-A_for_12.5_Vote.pdf	Cover Memo
Policy JC-Attendance Areas	JC_FOR_12.5_VOTE_(1).pdf	Cover Memo
Policy JCA-Assignment of Students to Schools	JCA_FOR_12.5_VOTE_(1).pdf	Cover Memo

RESIDENCY POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to school administrators, parents, and/or legal guardians concerning the admission of students to the Natick Public Schools (the "Schools"). The Schools were established pursuant to statutes providing publicly funded education for students within The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the right to attend the schools is also regulated by statute. Generally and as more fully set forth in this policy, the right to attend the schools is limited to students who reside in the Town of Natick and to certain nonresident students who are eligible to attend the schools under specific programs or conditions approved by the Natick School Committee.

1. Eligibility to Attend the Schools

A student between the minimum and maximum ages established by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education who has not received a diploma or certificate from a secondary school shall be eligible to attend the schools if:

- a. Kindergarten student is 5 years of age on or before August 31st of the enrollment year. Grade 1 student is 6 years of age on or before August 31st of the enrollment year. Exceptions to age requirement will be considered in accordance with Natick Public Schools early admission protocol (See Appendix A).
- b. The student permanently, not temporarily or sporadically, resides in Natick with his/her parent(s) or legal guardian.
- c. The student actually resides in Natick with someone other than his/her parent(s) or legal guardian for the purpose of attending the schools and tuition for such student is paid as in accordance with Section 6 of this policy.
- d. The student actually resides in Natick with someone other than his/her parent(s) or legal guardian for the purpose of temporarily ameliorating personal extreme hardship, and may attend the schools at the discretion of the Superintendent.
- e. The student, regardless of place of residence, has been selected to attend the schools under a statutory program for the education of non-resident students, duly accepted by the School Committee.
- f. The student is from a foreign country and meets the requirements of Section 8 of this policy.
- g. The student, regardless of place of residence, meets the requirements of Section 9 of this policy.
- h. Prior to entry, the student must meet all MA Department of Public Health immunization requirements in accordance with 105 CMR 220.

2. Verification of Residency

Before any student is enrolled in Natick Public Schools, his or her parent or legal guardian must provide:

- a. A signed Statement/Affidavit of Occupancy (see below)
- b. Proof of Residency in Natick (3 documents).

All applicants for enrollment must submit at least one document each from Column A, B, and C and any other documents that may be requested, including but not limited to those from Column A, B, or C (noted below). A parent, guardian, or student who is unable to produce the required documents should contact the Superintendent.

COLUMN A--Evidence of Residency	COLUMN B--Evidence of Occupancy	COLUMN C --Photo Identification
Record of recent mortgage payment and/or property tax bil	Gas/Oil Bill, Electric Bill, Home (not cell) Telephone Bill, Cable Bill (Note: Bill must be dated within the past 45 days and address and name must be stated)	Valid MA Driver's License
Fully signed and executed Lease and/or Rental Agreement (Must be executed by both parties)	Recent bill dated within the past 45 days showing Natick address and name (Note: A Residency Statement/Affidavit is required with this option)	Valid MA Photo ID Card
Residency Affidavit	Excise Tax bill	Valid Passport
Fully signed and executed Purchase and Sale (P&S) Agreement (provided occupancy date occurs within 45 days of enrollment)		Other Government issued Photo ID
Section 8 Agreement		

3. Determination of Eligibility

The Superintendent, or his/her designee(s), shall determine whether a student is eligible to attend the Schools. In determining whether a student actually resides in Natick for purposes of Sections 1.b, 1.c and 1.d of this policy, the following factors shall be considered:

- a. Whether the student physically occupies a dwelling in Natick regardless of whether such occupancy is based upon ownership, lease, or consent of a person legally entitled to occupy the dwelling;
- b. With whom the student lives, such as parent(s), legal guardian, custodial parent after a divorce, relative, or other person and the duration of such living arrangement;
- c. If a student resides with someone other than his/her parent(s), legal guardian, or the parent with physical custody after a divorce, the reasons for doing so;
- d. The amount of time actually spent by the student in the dwelling in Natick;
- e. Whether the student's physical belongings are stored at the dwelling;
- f. Whether mail concerning the student, such as mail from doctors, etc., is addressed to the dwelling;
- g. Whether the residence is the center of the student's domestic, social, and civic life;
- h. Whether the student was included as an occupant of the dwelling for purposes of the town census;
- i. Such other information as the Superintendent or his/her designee(s) may deem relevant to determining where a student actually resides.

4. Post-Enrollment Verification and Enforcement

Should a question arise concerning any student's residency in the Town of Natick while s/he is attending the Natick Public Schools, the student's residency will be subject to further inquiry and/or investigation. Questions concerning residency may arise on the basis of incomplete, suspicious, or contradictory proofs of address; anonymous tips; correspondence that is returned to Natick Public Schools because of an invalid or unknown address; statements made by students that they are moving or have moved, or other grounds. When he/she becomes aware of a question regarding a student's residency, the building principal or other member of the Administration (or his/her designee) shall contact the Superintendent. The principal may request updated proof of residence, and may obtain the services of the Natick Police Department to conduct an investigation into student's residence.

The Natick Police Department may use, but is not limited to, the following methods to conduct his/her investigation:

- Investigator will visit the residence without an advanced notice
- Investigator may attempt to contact/interview parent to gather documentation to either confirm residency or prove non-residency
- Investigator may interview landlord and neighbors when possible
- Investigator may keep residence under surveillance to establish patterns of occupancy
- Investigator will leave evidence of his/her visit by leaving a dated letter and business card with contact information
- The investigation will continue until residency or non-residency is confirmed and supported with appropriate documentation

The residency investigator will report his or her findings to the Principal/Superintendent.

5. Payment of Tuition for Certain Students

It is the intention of this policy to require the payment of tuition in advance for all students legally required to pay tuition to attend the schools. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as acceptance by the Town of Natick of any financial obligations for the education of students who temporarily reside in Town for the purposes of obtaining an education.

- a. A student who resides temporarily in Natick with someone other than his/her parent(s) or legal guardian for the purpose of attending the Schools shall only be admitted to the Schools upon the payment of tuition by (i) the town in which the student's parent(s) or legal guardian resides(s), or (ii) by the student's parent(s) or legal guardian, as provided in M.G. L. Ch. 76, Sec. 6. Tuition payable by the parent or guardian shall, for the period of attendance, be computed at the average expense per pupil in such school for such period.
- b. Any student for whom tuition is payable shall only be admitted to the Schools for the period of time actually covered by a tuition payment and shall be required to withdraw from the Schools if future tuition payments are not received by the Schools in a timely fashion as determined by the Superintendent.
- c. The education of students with disabilities is the financial responsibility of the city or town in which the student resides. The programmatic and fiscal obligations for "tuition" students, who require special education services, is addressed in 603CMR 28.03 (4)

6. School Choice

Natick has voted to be a Massachusetts School Choice District. Determination on allowing students to attend the Natick Public Schools under School Choice is determined on an annual basis. Factors determining that decision are:

- a. The availability of seats/space in the school/grade requested;
- b. The class sizes at the grade levels of enrollment;
- c. That enrollment of the student will not have an adverse impact on the schools' budget;
- d. The effect on the student of enrollment, if it is to be at a time other than the beginning of a school year; and
- e. Whether an appropriate educational program and current school resources for the student exist in the schools, provided that the education of students with disabilities remains the financial responsibility of the city or town in which the student's parent(s) or legal guardian resides.

7. METCO

Natick Public Schools adheres to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 76, section 12A (METCO) in enrolling non-resident students under the METCO program.

8. Foreign Students

In order to provide students at Natick High School with the opportunity to meet students from foreign cultures and to be educated abroad, the School Committee supports the enrollment of foreign students in the Schools as provided for in this section.

- a. The Principal of Natick High School may enroll foreign students annually, subject to the approval of the Superintendent.
- b. A foreign student who wishes to reside in Natick for the purpose of attending the Schools shall be subject to the provisions of Section 6 and shall be required to pay tuition as provided therein, unless the Superintendent, if permitted by federal law, specifically waives payment of tuition.
- c. May be required to work with the district's contracted foreign student support organization as a means to enroll.

9. Admission of Non-Resident Students

Except as expressly provided for herein, non-resident students shall not be admitted to the Schools. In addition to non-resident students who are eligible to attend the Schools under Sections 1.e, and 1.g above, the Superintendent may, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations, permit a non-resident student to attend the schools as follows:

- a. A student who was legally enrolled in the Schools under Sections 1.b and 1.c and whose family moves out of Town on or after April 1 of a school year may, with the permission of the Superintendent, continue to attend the schools for the remainder of the year (see Section 10).
- b. Continued enrollment for grade 12 of a student who has completed grade 11 in accordance with Section 9.a is subject to application to and approval by the Superintendent
- c. A student whose family provides satisfactory evidence that he/she will be residing in Natick within a grading period and would be eligible to attend the schools under Sections 1.a, 1.b or 1.c of this policy may, in accordance with regulations adopted by the Superintendent, and with the permission of the Superintendent, attend the Schools prior to actually residing in Natick.
- d. The Superintendent may permit a non-resident student to attend the High School for not more than one year under a reciprocal arrangement with the Schools in the Town in which the student resides pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 76, Sec 12, where such temporary attendance is (i) in the best educational interests of the student, (ii) there is no reason to believe that the student presents any risk to other students or employees of the Schools.

10. Superintendent's Permission

The Superintendent may permit a non-resident student to attend the Schools under Sections 9.a, 9.b, and 9.c of this policy if:

- a. The school district in which the student's parent(s) or legal guardian reside(s) requests that the student attend the Schools; and
- b. There is space available for the student; and
- c. Attendance by the student would not impose an undue burden on the Schools' budget; and
- d. The student has a good disciplinary record and an acceptable custodial arrangement; and
- e. Refusal of the request would, in the judgment of the Superintendent, likely harm the student's education.

11. Transportation of Non--Residents

Except as otherwise provided in state and federal laws and other policies, transportation of a non-resident student to and from school shall remain the responsibility of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian.

12. Students with Disabilities

The education of students with disabilities is the financial responsibility of the city or town in which the student resides. The programmatic and fiscal obligations for students, who require special education services, is addressed in 603CMR 28.03 (4)

13. Behavior

Non-resident students attending the Schools under Sections 1.e, 1.f, 1.g, or 1.h do so subject to the terms and conditions established by those programs and any School Committee policies and regulations therefore, and their continued eligibility to attend the Schools is conditional upon such students' good behavior. Such students' eligibility to attend the Schools may be terminated as provided for by those programs or for bad conduct pursuant to the Schools' Code of Conduct.

14. Regulations

The Superintendent shall adopt written regulations from time to time implementing this policy and requiring students, their parent(s), legal guardians, or persons having custody of a student to supply such information as may be reasonably necessary to make determinations about a student's eligibility to attend the Schools, whether tuition may be charged for such student, or for any other purpose relating to the implementation of this policy.

15. Failure to provide information or to pay tuition

Failure by a student and/or parent/guardian to provide evidence or explanations as requested by the school administration to implement this policy and failure to promptly pay any tuition due shall result in the student being ineligible to attend the Schools.

16. Waiver of Tuition

Upon recommendation by the Superintendent, the Committee may, in its discretion, waive payment of tuition.

17. Penalty

Only students who qualify under this policy shall be eligible to attend the schools. Any person who knowingly misrepresents facts concerning a student's actual place of residence or reasons for residing in Natick, or any other material facts concerning a student's eligibility to attend the schools under this policy in order to enroll a student in the schools or to avoid paying tuition may be liable for the consequences. Natick Public Schools reserves the right to recover restitution based upon the costs of educational services provided during the period of non-residency.

18. Relationship to Federal and Massachusetts Laws and Regulations

It is the intent of the foregoing policy that the Natick Public Schools shall also be in compliance with all Federal and State laws and regulations bearing upon enrollment issues, including but not limited to:

- The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended [42 U.S.C. 725] by the No Child Left Behind Act Federal Immigration Law Regarding Foreign Students [8 U.S.C. 1184 (L) (3)]
- Massachusetts Special Education Regulations [603 CMR 28.03 (4)].
- Caregiver Authorization Affidavit (MGL Chapter 511 of the Acts of 2008 as amended by Chapter 20 1F)
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health Regulations (105 CMR 220)

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 15:1G; 76:1; 76:5; 76:15; 76:15A
603 CMR 26:01; 26:02; 26:03

CROSS REFS.: JLCA, Physical Examination of Students
JLCB, Inoculations of Students
JFBB, School Choice

RESIDENCY POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to school administrators, parents, and/or legal guardians concerning the admission of students to the Natick Public Schools (the "Schools"). The Schools were established pursuant to statutes providing publicly funded education for students within The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the right to attend the schools is also regulated by statute. Generally and as more fully set forth in this policy, the right to attend the schools is limited to students who reside in the Town of Natick and to certain nonresident students who are eligible to attend the schools under specific programs or conditions approved by the Natick School Committee.

1. Eligibility to Attend the Schools

A student between the minimum and maximum ages established by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education who has not received a diploma or certificate from a secondary school shall be eligible to attend the schools if:

- a. Kindergarten student is 5 years of age on or before August 31st of the enrollment year. Grade 1 student is 6 years of age on or before August 31st of the enrollment year. Exceptions to age requirement will be considered in accordance with Natick Public Schools early admission protocol (See Appendix A).
- b. The student permanently, not temporarily or sporadically, resides in Natick with his/her parent(s) or legal guardian.
- c. The student actually resides in Natick with someone other than his/her parent(s) or legal guardian for the purpose of attending the schools and tuition for such student is paid as in accordance with Section 6 of this policy.
- d. The student actually resides in Natick with someone other than his/her parent(s) or legal guardian for the purpose of temporarily ameliorating personal extreme hardship, and may attend the schools at the discretion of the Superintendent.
- e. The student, regardless of place of residence, has been selected to attend the schools under a statutory program for the education of non-resident students, duly accepted by the School Committee.
- f. The student is from a foreign country and meets the requirements of Section 8 of this policy.
- g. The student, regardless of place of residence, meets the requirements of Section 9 of this policy.
- h. Prior to entry, the student must meet all MA Department of Public Health immunization requirements in accordance with 105 CMR 220.

2. Verification of Residency

Before any student is enrolled in Natick Public Schools, his or her parent or legal guardian must provide:

- a. A signed Statement/Affidavit of Occupancy (see below)
- b. Proof of Residency in Natick (3 documents).

All applicants for enrollment must submit at least one document each from Column A, B, and C and any other documents that may be requested, including but not limited to those from Column A, B, or C (noted below). A parent, guardian, or student who is unable to produce the required documents should contact the Superintendent.

COLUMN A--Evidence of Residency	COLUMN B--Evidence of Occupancy	COLUMN C --Photo Identification
Record of recent mortgage payment and/or property tax bil	Gas/Oil Bill, Electric Bill, Home (not cell) Telephone Bill, Cable Bill (Note: Bill must be dated within the past 45 days and address and name must be stated)	Valid MA Driver's License
Fully signed and executed Lease and/or Rental Agreement (Must be executed by both parties)	Recent bill dated within the past 45 days showing Natick address and name (Note: A Residency Statement/Affidavit is required with this option)	Valid MA Photo ID Card
Residency Affidavit	Excise Tax bill	Valid Passport
Fully signed and executed Purchase and Sale (P&S) Agreement (provided occupancy date occurs within 45 days of enrollment)		Other Government issued Photo ID
Section 8 Agreement		

3. Determination of Eligibility

The Superintendent, or his/her designee(s), shall determine whether a student is eligible to attend the Schools. In determining whether a student actually resides in Natick for purposes of Sections 1.b, 1.c and 1.d of this policy, the following factors shall be considered:

- a. Whether the student physically occupies a dwelling in Natick regardless of whether such occupancy is based upon ownership, lease, or consent of a person legally entitled to occupy the dwelling;
- b. With whom the student lives, such as parent(s), legal guardian, custodial parent after a divorce, relative, or other person and the duration of such living arrangement;
- c. If a student resides with someone other than his/her parent(s), legal guardian, or the parent with physical custody after a divorce, the reasons for doing so;
- d. The amount of time actually spent by the student in the dwelling in Natick;
- e. Whether the student's physical belongings are stored at the dwelling;
- f. Whether mail concerning the student, such as mail from doctors, etc., is addressed to the dwelling;
- g. Whether the residence is the center of the student's domestic, social, and civic life;
- h. Whether the student was included as an occupant of the dwelling for purposes of the town census;
- i. Such other information as the Superintendent or his/her designee(s) may deem relevant to determining where a student actually resides.

4. Post-Enrollment Verification and Enforcement

Should a question arise concerning any student's residency in the Town of Natick while s/he is attending the Natick Public Schools, the student's residency will be subject to further inquiry and/or investigation. Questions concerning residency may arise on the basis of incomplete, suspicious, or contradictory proofs of address; anonymous tips; correspondence that is returned to Natick Public Schools because of an invalid or unknown address; statements made by students that they are moving or have moved, or other grounds. When he/she becomes aware of a question regarding a student's residency, the building principal or other member of the Administration (or his/her designee) shall contact the Superintendent. The principal may request updated proof of residence, and may obtain the services of the Natick Police Department to conduct an investigation into student's residence.

The Natick Police Department may use, but is not limited to, the following methods to conduct his/her investigation:

- Investigator will visit the residence without an advanced notice
- Investigator may attempt to contact/interview parent to gather documentation to either confirm residency or prove non-residency
- Investigator may interview landlord and neighbors when possible
- Investigator may keep residence under surveillance to establish patterns of occupancy
- Investigator will leave evidence of his/her visit by leaving a dated letter and business card with contact information
- The investigation will continue until residency or non-residency is confirmed and supported with appropriate documentation

The residency investigator will report his or her findings to the Principal/Superintendent.

5. Payment of Tuition for Certain Students

It is the intention of this policy to require the payment of tuition in advance for all students legally required to pay tuition to attend the schools. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as acceptance by the Town of Natick of any financial obligations for the education of students who temporarily reside in Town for the purposes of obtaining an education.

- a. A student who resides temporarily in Natick with someone other than his/her parent(s) or legal guardian for the purpose of attending the Schools shall only be admitted to the Schools upon the payment of tuition by (i) the town in which the student's parent(s) or legal guardian resides(s), or (ii) by the student's parent(s) or legal guardian, as provided in M.G. L. Ch. 76, Sec. 6. Tuition payable by the parent or guardian shall, for the period of attendance, be computed at the average expense per pupil in such school for such period.
- b. Any student for whom tuition is payable shall only be admitted to the Schools for the period of time actually covered by a tuition payment and shall be required to withdraw from the Schools if future tuition payments are not received by the Schools in a timely fashion as determined by the Superintendent.
- c. The education of students with disabilities is the financial responsibility of the city or town in which the student resides. The programmatic and fiscal obligations for "tuition" students, who require special education services, is addressed in 603CMR 28.03 (4)

6. School Choice

Natick has voted to be a Massachusetts School Choice District. Determination on allowing students to attend the Natick Public Schools under School Choice is determined on an annual basis. Factors determining that decision are:

- a. The availability of seats/space in the school/grade requested;
- b. The class sizes at the grade levels of enrollment;
- c. That enrollment of the student will not have an adverse impact on the schools' budget;
- d. The effect on the student of enrollment, if it is to be at a time other than the beginning of a school year; and
- e. Whether an appropriate educational program and current school resources for the student exist in the schools, provided that the education of students with disabilities remains the financial responsibility of the city or town in which the student's parent(s) or legal guardian resides.

7. METCO

Natick Public Schools adheres to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 76, section 12A (METCO) in enrolling non-resident students under the METCO program.

8. Foreign Students

In order to provide students at Natick High School with the opportunity to meet students from foreign cultures and to be educated abroad, the School Committee supports the enrollment of foreign students in the Schools as provided for in this section.

- a. The Principal of Natick High School may enroll foreign students annually, subject to the approval of the Superintendent.
- b. A foreign student who wishes to reside in Natick for the purpose of attending the Schools shall be subject to the provisions of Section 6 and shall be required to pay tuition as provided therein, unless the Superintendent, if permitted by federal law, specifically waives payment of tuition.
- c. May be required to work with the district's contracted foreign student support organization as a means to enroll.

9. Admission of Non-Resident Students

Except as expressly provided for herein, non-resident students shall not be admitted to the Schools. In addition to non-resident students who are eligible to attend the Schools under Sections 1.e, and 1.g above, the Superintendent may, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations, permit a non-resident student to attend the schools as follows:

- a. A student who was legally enrolled in the Schools under Sections 1.b and 1.c and whose family moves out of Town on or after April 1 of a school year may, with the permission of the Superintendent, continue to attend the schools for the remainder of the year (see Section 10).
- b. Continued enrollment for grade 12 of a student who has completed grade 11 in accordance with Section 9.a is subject to application to and approval by the Superintendent
- c. A student whose family provides satisfactory evidence that he/she will be residing in Natick within a grading period and would be eligible to attend the schools under Sections 1.a, 1.b or 1.c of this policy may, in accordance with regulations adopted by the Superintendent, and with the permission of the Superintendent, attend the Schools prior to actually residing in Natick.
- d. The Superintendent may permit a non-resident student to attend the High School for not more than one year under a reciprocal arrangement with the Schools in the Town in which the student resides pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 76, Sec 12, where such temporary attendance is (i) in the best educational interests of the student, (ii) there is no reason to believe that the student presents any risk to other students or employees of the Schools.

10. Superintendent's Permission

The Superintendent may permit a non-resident student to attend the Schools under Sections 9.a, 9.b, and 9.c of this policy if:

- a. The school district in which the student's parent(s) or legal guardian reside(s) requests that the student attend the Schools; and
- b. There is space available for the student; and
- c. Attendance by the student would not impose an undue burden on the Schools' budget; and
- d. The student has a good disciplinary record and an acceptable custodial arrangement; and
- e. Refusal of the request would, in the judgment of the Superintendent, likely harm the student's education.

11. Transportation of Non--Residents

Except as otherwise provided in state and federal laws and other policies, transportation of a non-resident student to and from school shall remain the responsibility of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian.

12. Students with Disabilities

The education of students with disabilities is the financial responsibility of the city or town in which the student resides. The programmatic and fiscal obligations for students, who require special education services, is addressed in 603CMR 28.03 (4)

13. Behavior

Non-resident students attending the Schools under Sections 1.e, 1.f, 1.g, or 1.h do so subject to the terms and conditions established by those programs and any School Committee policies and regulations therefore, and their continued eligibility to attend the Schools is conditional upon such students' good behavior. Such students' eligibility to attend the Schools may be terminated as provided for by those programs or for bad conduct pursuant to the Schools' Code of Conduct.

14. Regulations

The Superintendent shall adopt written regulations from time to time implementing this policy and requiring students, their parent(s), legal guardians, or persons having custody of a student to supply such information as may be reasonably necessary to make determinations about a student's eligibility to attend the Schools, whether tuition may be charged for such student, or for any other purpose relating to the implementation of this policy.

15. Failure to provide information or to pay tuition

Failure by a student and/or parent/guardian to provide evidence or explanations as requested by the school administration to implement this policy and failure to promptly pay any tuition due shall result in the student being ineligible to attend the Schools.

16. Waiver of Tuition

Upon recommendation by the Superintendent, the Committee may, in its discretion, waive payment of tuition.

17. Penalty

Only students who qualify under this policy shall be eligible to attend the schools. Any person who knowingly misrepresents facts concerning a student's actual place of residence or reasons for residing in Natick, or any other material facts concerning a student's eligibility to attend the schools under this policy in order to enroll a student in the schools or to avoid paying tuition may be liable for the consequences. Natick Public Schools reserves the right to recover restitution based upon the costs of educational services provided during the period of non-residency.

18. Relationship to Federal and Massachusetts Laws and Regulations

It is the intent of the foregoing policy that the Natick Public Schools shall also be in compliance with all Federal and State laws and regulations bearing upon enrollment issues, including but not limited to:

- The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended [42 U.S.C. 725] by the No Child Left Behind Act Federal Immigration Law Regarding Foreign Students [8 U.S.C. 1184 (L) (3)]
- Massachusetts Special Education Regulations [603 CMR 28.03 (4)].
- Caregiver Authorization Affidavit (MGL Chapter 511 of the Acts of 2008 as amended by Chapter 20 1F)
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health Regulations (105 CMR 220)

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 15:1G; 76:1; 76:5; 76:15; 76:15A
603 CMR 26:01; 26:02; 26:03

CROSS REFS.: JLCA, Physical Examination of Students
JLCB, Inoculations of Students
JFBB, School Choice

ATTENDANCE AREAS

Attendance areas for the various schools of the town will be drawn up by the Superintendent and approved by the School Committee. The primary considerations that govern the establishment of a school attendance area are school capacity and transportation considerations. Generally, students will attend the school in the attendance area in which they live.

In establishing an attendance area, the Committee will take into consideration safe walking conditions consistent with the Committee's transportation policies.

From time to time an overcrowded condition in an existing school, the development of new residential areas, or the opening of a new school may require the establishment or change of previously established school attendance areas.

The Committee will confer with community representatives prior to setting new attendance lines. However, the Committee's primary basis for judgment must be equality of educational opportunity for all students rather than the personal desires of any one group.

The Superintendent is authorized to make exceptions to attendance lines for individual children in the best interests of the student and/or the school.

SOURCE: MASC 2021

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:37C; 71:37D; 71:37I; 71:37J
603 CMR 17.00
603 CMR 26.00

CROSS REF.: JCA, Assignment of Students to Schools

ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS TO SCHOOLS

Generally, students will be required to attend school in the attendance area in which they reside, unless the Superintendent has granted special permission.

Special permission may be granted for the following reasons:

1. If the change involves a hardship case or if there are medical considerations.
2. If the change appears to be in the interests of the child, of the schools, or for disciplinary and administrative reasons.
3. If the legal residence of a child changes from one attendance area to another during the school year and the parents/guardians wish the child to remain in his former school; permission will not extend beyond the current school year.
4. To permit school students to take courses not offered in their assigned schools.

School bus transportation will not be provided for students attending schools outside their attendance area unless they can be accommodated on existing bus routes and schedules or a hardship is involved; or unless specific permission is granted by the Superintendent.

SOURCE: MASC 2021

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:37C; 71:37D; 71:37I; 71:37J
603 CMR 17.00
603 CMR 26.00

CROSS REF.: JC, Attendance Areas

NOTE: The cross reference is to a related category in the NEPN classification system.