

Student Services

BP 5015 RESIDENCE DETERMINATION**References:**

Education Code Sections 68040, 68083, 68086 and 76140;
Title 5 Sections 54000 et seq.;
38 U.S. Code Section 3679

Residence Classification

Residency classifications shall be determined for each student at the time of each registration and whenever a student has not been in attendance for more than one semester. Residence classifications are to be made in accordance with the following provisions:

- A residence determination date is that day immediately preceding the opening day of instruction for any session during which the student proposes to attend.
- Notwithstanding this standard for determining bona fide California residency, a student with military or veteran status may be deemed to qualify as a California resident for in-state tuition eligibility, in accordance with state and federal law.
- Residence classification is the responsibility of the Office of Enrollment Services.

Any Team USA student athlete who trains in the state in an elite level program approved by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee is entitled to resident classification for tuition and fee purposes until the athlete has resided in the state the minimum time necessary to become a resident.

Students must be notified of residence determination within 14 calendar days of submission of application.

A student seeking to enroll exclusively in career development and college preparation courses, and other courses for which no credit is given, shall not be subject to this residency classification requirement.

The District shall publish the residence determination date and summary of the rules and regulations governing residence determination and classification in the District catalog or addenda thereto.

Right to Appeal

Students who have been classified as non-residents have the right to a review of their classification (Title 5 Section 54010 subdivision (a)). Any student, following a final decision of residence classification by the Office of Enrollment Services, may make written appeal to the Dean of Enrollment Services within 30 calendar days of notification of final decision by the District regarding classification.

Appeal Procedure

The appeal is to be submitted to the Office of Enrollment Services which must forward it to the Dean of Enrollment Services within five working days of receipt. Copies of the original application for admission, the residency questionnaire, and evidence or documentation provided by the student, with a cover statement indicating upon what basis the residence classification decision was made, must be forwarded with the appeal.

The Dean of Enrollment Services shall review all the records and have the right to request additional information from either the student or the Office of Enrollment Services.

Within 30 calendar days of receipt, the Dean of Enrollment Services shall send a written determination to the student. The determination shall state specific facts on which the appeal decision was made.

Reclassification

A student previously classified as a non-resident may submit a petition to the Office of Admissions and Records to be reclassified as of any residence determination date. A residence determination date is that day immediately preceding the opening day of instruction for any session during which the student proposes to attend.

Petitions must be submitted prior to the semester for which reclassification is to be effective. Extenuating circumstances may be considered in cases where a student failed to petition for reclassification prior to the residency determination date. In no case, however, may a student receive a non-resident tuition refund after the date of the first census.

Written documentation may be required of the student in support of the reclassification request.

A questionnaire to determine financial independence must be submitted with the petition for reclassification. Determination of financial independence is not required for students who were classified as non-residents by the University of California, the California State University, or another community college district. (Education Code Section 68044)

A student shall be considered financially independent for purposes of residence reclassification if the applicant meets all of the following requirements:

- Has not and will not be claimed as an exemption for state and federal tax purposes by his/her/their parent in the calendar year prior to the year the reclassification application is made;
- Has not lived and will not live for more than six weeks in the home of his/her/their parent during the calendar year the reclassification application is made.

A student who has established financial independence may be reclassified as a resident if the student has met the requirements of Title 5 Sections 54020, 54022, and 54024.

Failure to satisfy all of the financial independence criteria listed above does not necessarily result in denial of residence status if the one-year requirement is met and demonstration of intent is sufficiently strong.

Financial dependence in the current or preceding calendar year shall weigh more heavily against finding California residence than financial dependence in the preceding second and third calendar years. Financial dependence in the current or preceding calendar year shall be overcome only if (1) the parent on whom the student is dependent is a California resident, or (2) there is no evidence of the student's continuing residence in another state.

The Dean of Enrollment Services will make a determination, based on the evidence, and notify the student not later than 14 days of receipt of the petition for reclassification.

Students have the right to appeal according to the procedures above.

Non-Citizens

The District will admit any non-citizen who is 18 years of age or a high school graduate.

Non-citizens present in the United States without documentation or with any type of temporary visa, will be classified as non-residents and charged non-resident tuition unless they meet the exceptions contained below.

If, for at least one year and one day prior to the start of the semester in question, a non-citizen has possessed any immigration status that allows him/her to live permanently in the United States and he/she/they meets the California residency requirements, the student can be classified as a resident.

A student who is without lawful immigration status may be classified as a resident if he/she/they meets the following requirements:

- *high school attendance in California for three or more years;*
- *graduation from a California high school or attainment of the equivalent thereof;*
- *registration for classes not earlier than the fall semester or quarter of 2001-2002;*
- *the filing of an affidavit that the student has filed an application to legalize his/her/their immigration status, or will file an application as soon as he/she/they is eligible to do so.*

Any students who are U.S. citizens, permanent residents of the U.S., and aliens who are not nonimmigrants (including those who are undocumented), may be exempt from paying nonresident tuition if they meet one of the following requirements:

- Total attendance of, or attainment of credits earned while in California equivalent to three or more years of full-time attendance or attainment of credits at any of the following: (a) California high schools; (b) California high schools established by the State Board of Education; (c) California adult schools established by either a county office of education, unified or high school district, or The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; (d) campuses of the California community colleges; or (e) a combination thereof; or
- Three or more years of full-time high school coursework, and a total of three or more years of attendance in California elementary schools, or a combination of California elementary and secondary schools.

Additionally, the following requirements must be met:

- Graduation from a California high school or attainment of the equivalent thereof; or completed an associate degree from a California Community College; or completed the minimum requirements at a California Community College, or fulfill the minimum transfer requirements established for the University of California or the California State University for students transferring from a campus of the California Community Colleges;
- Registration or enrollment in a course offered by any college in the District for any term commencing on or after January 1, 2002,
- Completion of a questionnaire form prescribed by the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges and furnished by the District of enrollment, verifying eligibility for this nonresident tuition exemption; and

- In the case of a student without lawful immigration status, the filing of an affidavit that the student has filed an application to legalize his/her/their immigration status, or will file an application as soon as he/she/they is eligible to do so.

Documents and information obtained in implementing this exemption are confidential.

The initial residency classification will be made at the time the student applies for admission. Students may file residency questionnaire forms through the third week of the semester to request a review of their residency status. Final residency determination is made by the Dean of Enrollment Services. Students may appeal the decision.

The District shall avoid the disclosure of information that might indicate a student or family's citizenship or immigration status if the disclosure is not authorized by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or state law.

Where permitted by law, the Superintendent/President of District shall enumerate alternative means to establish residency, age, or other eligibility criteria for enrollment or programs, and those alternative means shall include among them documentation or information that are available to persons regardless of immigration status or citizenship status, and that do not reveal information related to citizenship or immigration status.

Examples of documents that can be used as proof of residency include but are not limited to:

- Registering a motor vehicle operated in California;
- Obtaining a California driver's license or California identification card;
- Filing a resident or nonresident California state income tax return;
- Listing a California address on a federal income tax return;
- Listing a permanent military address or home of record in California;
- A professional or vocational license obtained from a California state licensing agency (e.g., nursing, teaching credentials);
- Maintaining active resident memberships in California based professional organizations (e.g., police union, teachers' union); and
- Maintaining an active bank account at a California bank

Where District is permitted by law to request parent's residency information for a minor student in order to determine tuition or aid, the District shall only require documentation or information that is available to persons regardless of immigration status (as noted above).

Where residency, age, and other eligibility criteria for purposes of enrollment or any program may be established by alternative documents or information permitted by law or this procedure, the District's procedures and forms shall describe to the applicant, and accommodate, all alternatives specified in law and authorized under this procedure.

Specifically, where District must determine a student's residency for purposes of in-state tuition, the District shall not inquire about a parent/guardian's citizenship or immigration status, and shall enumerate alternative means of establishing a parent/guardian's residency. If the student is considered a minor dependent of a California resident, the District shall only require documents to determine whether the parent has resided in California for one year (e.g. vehicle registration, lease agreements, etc.).

Also see BP/AP 3415 District Response to Immigration Enforcement Actions; BP/AP 3501 Campus Security and Access; BP 5015 Residence Determination; BP/AP 5040 Student Records, Directory Information and Privacy

Office of Primary Responsibility: Enrollment Services

Date Approved: December 8, 2009 (*Replaced part of College of Marin Procedure 4.0003 DP.1*)

Dates Reviewed/Revised: February 12, 2019, April 16, 2019; April 13, 2021; November 15, 2022

Date Revised: November 14, 2023