

Admission

The City of Berkeley is a community rich in its diversity. Diversity can be measured by the various racial, ethnic, economic, educational, and linguistic backgrounds of the population that inhabits the city. The Governing Board values our community and the rich diversity that students bring to our schools.

The Governing Board believes that every child residing in Berkeley has the right to attend a Berkeley public school regardless of socio-economic status, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, language, disability and sexual orientation. The Berkeley Unified School District offers a free public education to all the children of Berkeley and is committed to ensuring each and every school provides a quality education with equal and equitable opportunities for all students to be taught a strong core curriculum, participate in enriched learning experiences and receive resources that promote success for all students.

In order to ensure that Berkeley students have the best public school education opportunities available, the Superintendent or designee shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that Berkeley residents are able to attend Berkeley Unified District Schools.

The Board directs the Superintendent or designee to require families to provide proof of Berkeley residency before students are enrolled in Berkeley schools. Families shall submit proofs of Berkeley residency when they first enroll in Berkeley Unified School District, when transitioning from elementary school to middle school and from middle school to high school.

The Superintendent or designee shall inform parents/guardians about admissions requirements and shall assist them with enrollment procedures. The Superintendent or designee shall maintain fair and equitable procedures which provide for the verification of the student's age, residency, and any other admissions requirements specified in law and in Board policies and administrative regulations.

All students enrolling either in a school in their attendance area or outside their attendance zone shall be subject to the timelines established by the Superintendent or designee. Nonresident students may apply for inter-district attendance in accordance with the timelines specified in applicable Board policies and administrative regulations.

Investigations

The District may utilize District staff or private investigators to conduct residency investigations as the Superintendent or designee deems reasonably appropriate.

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1. Circumstances upon which the District may initiate an investigation:

A residency investigation may be conducted in instances where the Superintendent or designee is able to identify specific, articulable facts supporting the belief that the parent

or legal guardian of the pupil has provided false or unreliable evidence of residency. (Education Code 48204.1, 48204.2).

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2. Investigatory Methods:

Investigatory methods may include home visits, to/from home or school surveillance, verification of enrollment information, review of student and public records, including available social media, interviews of persons who may have knowledge of the student's residency, and collection of images with technology used in open and public view. Surreptitious photographing or video-recording of pupils who are being investigated is prohibited. (Education Code 48204.2)

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3. Investigators:

Investigations may be conducted by District employees and/or licensed private investigators. District employees and licensed private investigators engaged in an investigation must truthfully identify themselves as an investigator to individuals contacted or interviewed during the course of the investigation. (Education Code 48204.2)

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Before hiring a licensed private investigator, the District will make reasonable efforts to determine whether the pupil resides in the District. (Education Code 48204.2)

If the Superintendent or designee, upon investigation, determines that a student does not meet District residency requirements and denies the student's enrollment in the District, he/she shall specify the basis for a determination of nonresidency and provide the student's parent/guardian an opportunity to appeal that determination. (Education Code 48204.2)