

Domicile v. Residence

The domicile of a student under 18 years of age is presumed to be the domicile of his or her parents or court-ordered guardian as defined by the General Statutes of North Carolina. A student who is domiciled within the geographic area served by the school system, who is under age 21, who has not completed the prescribed courses for high school graduation, and who otherwise qualifies for admission is entitled to be admitted without payment of tuition.

Domicile requires the intent to abandon one's prior home and remain in the new location as a permanent home for an indefinite period. Although a person may have more than one residence, by law he/she has only **one domicile**. One can establish a new domicile only by abandoning the current domicile with no intent to return to it.

In contrast, a residence need not be one's exclusive home and does not require an intention that the residence be the permanent home.