

NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

General

The Board is required by law to provide a free, public education to the resident students of the City. However, the Board values the contributions non-resident students and their parents or guardians continually make to the School System. Understanding this, the Board may permit students whose parents or guardians are not legal residents within the corporate city limits of the City of Ozark to attend schools within the School System. A non-resident fee, established by Ozark City Schools is payable in advance before admission to any school in the School System.

Resident Student Defined

Ozark City Schools defines resident students as those whose parents or guardians legally reside within the area served by the School System (i.e. the geographical boundaries of the city). All resident students are entitled to be admitted to Ozark City Schools subject to applicable laws, policy limitations and judicial constraints. The schools within the system shall be open to all children of school age whose parents or guardians reside within the Ozark City Schools service area.

If applicable, children of employee's that live outside the city limits of Ozark may attend Ozark City Schools on a non-tuition basis.

If applicable, students grandfathered into the school system based upon an agreement that was put in place several years ago may attend Ozark City Schools. Tuition is waived for these students, but they are subject to all other requirements established for non-resident students.

*Exception: Any student meeting the definition of homeless as defined in the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (P.L. 101-645), Subtitle VII-B, residing within the corporate city limits of Ozark, will be enrolled and provided a free, appropriate education, on the same basis as children and youth with established residences.

Non-Resident Admission/Approval Requirements

1. All school records must be submitted as part of the application process. These records must include the following:
 - Immunization records
 - Transcript
 - Attendance and discipline records
 - All student evaluation results and/or records relating to special services including IEP's and 504 plans.
 - Any other records that would be part of an official student record file in the state of Alabama.

If a student does not have proof of immunization, the student will be enrolled and the parent/guardian will be instructed on how to obtain the needed immunizations. Failure to provide proof of immunizations will result in the student being withdrawn.

2. The student must be eligible to attend the school from which he or she is transferring. Ozark City Schools does not admit students who have been expelled or suspended or who have withdrawn from schools in other systems due to disciplinary problems.
3. The non-resident student's parents or guardians make complete application to Ozark City Schools at the beginning of the school year when possible. After a determination of the number of resident students in each class has been established, the slots available for non-resident students will be determined for each grade level at each school. When space becomes a limiting factor, children of full time employees, and siblings of currently enrolled students will be given priority on admission. The Board reserves the right to determine the maximum size of the student body in any grade level.
4. Families in the process of building a house or otherwise moving into the School System must present proof of the building process or the contract completion date to school officials. In addition, the full non-resident fee may be assessed. If paid in full, when legal residence is established, a pro rata amount of the non-resident fee will be refunded. The Superintendent, or his designee, will approve applications where establishment of a legal residence is pending.
5. Parents or guardians must complete a Non-resident Fee Contract. The contract consists of two (2) options. They are as follows:
 - Option 1 – payment in full
 - Option 2 – two semester payments (half before the beginning of each semester)

For families with more than one non-resident child enrolled in the School System, non-resident fees are capped at \$900.00 per family. Parents and guardians may pay fees using cash, check or money order. Payments must be made at the Central Office. Payments must be received no later than one week prior to the beginning of school or semester break to avoid a late charge of \$50.00. If payments are not received before the start of the semester, the student or students will be automatically withdrawn and will not be able to attend Ozark City Schools. If a student withdraws mid-semester, no refunds will be given for that semester. Students who have paid in full will be refunded for the remaining semester. The Board will re-evaluate non-resident fees after each city reappraisal of property.

6. Students must abide by School System policies, rules and regulations. Students failing to follow school and district policies and rules, specifically attendance and discipline, will be withdrawn. Determination to withdraw a student will be made by the Superintendent, or his designee.

7. The School System and parents must abide by all rules and regulations of the Alabama High School Athletic Association regarding bona fide moves and eligibility for participation in sports by students.

Change of Residency Status

If the status of a student changes from that of resident to non-resident student due to a change of residence of his or her parent or guardian, school officials at the school where the student is currently enrolled must be notified. Non-resident fees will be charged starting the next academic year.

Completion of Education

Non- resident students may complete their education in the School System if annual non-resident fees are paid promptly and there is not justifiable reason for the privilege to be revoked.

Disposition of Fee Receipts

School officials at the Central Office shall receipt all non-resident fees received. Non-resident fees will be entered into the general ledger by the custodian of funds. These funds will be accounted for in a separate line item in the budget and will be used for the overall operation of the School System.