

Resident Students & Enrollment

A resident student is deemed to be domiciled in Baltimore County with his/her parent to attend their zoned school. However, this is not the entire story! Periodically, PHHS receives reports questioning whether a child belongs in the Hall. Read on to see how we determine “whose child is this!”



This article is summarized from the Board of Education Policy: Rules 5140 & 5150.

Most do not know, but there are multiple ways that a student is considered eligible to attend Perry Hall High beyond living in the community. For our residential students, documentation must be provided when a child transfers from one school to the next. However, there are certain criteria where a student is considered a resident even if they do not live in the area 100% of the time. Some of the more common reasons are:

- The custodial parent lives in our area, but the child has visitation with the other parent during the week and the other parent lives out of the PHHS area.
- Some children have a court-appointed guardian who has established a bona fide domicile within our boundaries, or perhaps they have been placed in a foster or group home, but they may also have visits with family out of the area. Domicile for purposes of admission and assignment is the guardian’s current address.
- We have 18-year-old students who have established independent domiciles within our boundaries.

In all cases, documentation is verified by a Baltimore County employee outside of Perry Hall High.

We do have situations where non-resident students are enrolled. All non-residents are approved upon written authorization from the Superintendent and/or Pupil Personnel Worker (PPW). Enrollment is approved on a year-by-year basis, and principals may not approve the enrollment of a non-resident student without the above authorizations apart from some BCPS students in their Senior year or to complete their current year. So why would a superintendent or PPW make such an approval? Below are a few of the many reasons:

- There are what is called “hardship cases.” A death (or serious illness) of a parent, abandonment, incarceration, abuse or neglect, homelessness, etc. are but a few of the reasons where a student may be given permission to be at PHHS. Not all reasons are negative. The student may be a foster child or is placed for adoption. A military parent may be deployed unaccompanied, and so the student now lives with an acting guardian who lives out of the district. Decisions are typically made to create stability for students in a familiar or safe setting, which includes remaining in their current school during stressful times in their lives.
- Students in the process of relocating within the boundaries are often granted permission if the relocation will be completed by November 1st. Also, sometimes families move out the PHHS zone to another location within Baltimore County Public Schools, so students may receive permission to complete the marking period.
- If a student has a medical need that cannot be served by another school, then the family can petition for enrollment outside of the school area where they live. For instance, a student who has a severe asthmatic condition may need to be relocated to a school that provides air conditioning.
- The student’s preferred area of study is not offered at their “home” school, so they petition to transfer to a school that has their desired program.

In most cases, transportation is the responsibility of the guardian who has the non-resident child in their home. Additionally, depending on the circumstances (such as students who live out of BCPS), tuition may be assessed. When we hear about a student who lives out of the area, we have a procedure that we follow to see whether the child is legitimately here. Confidentiality prevents disclosing why the child who appears to be out-of-area is supposed to be here. If they have no approval, BCPS will address it; But if they do, we should welcome them #HallTogether.