

Residency Q&A
MSAD 72

Q: What is the definition of “Residency?”

A: In the year 2000, the Maine Supreme Court declared that in order to be eligible for tuition subsidy, the student’s **parent/legal guardian must “actually live” in the district.** This means that owning property or renting an apartment is not sufficient to be considered a resident. Loosely defined, where you reside is where you “lay your head at night.”

Q: Why is residency important?

A: Residency is important because Maine towns are responsible for educational costs on the basis of two factors: student enrollment and valuation. The greater the number of students in a town, the higher the percentage of the district’s overall educational costs the town pays. When towns are assessed for students who do not reside in a town, it places an undue burden on the taxpayers of the town and district.

Q: What happens if I sign off stating that I am a resident when I live outside of the district?

A: As stated on the “residency validation” portion of our enrollment form, any family claiming residency who is determined not to have been an actual resident will be liable for both tuition costs and all related legal and/or collections costs. Recently, the town of Denmark sued one family and recovered over \$15,000 in costs for a case involving a family who rented an apartment and failed to live there.