



Muscogee County School District

P.O. Box 2427 • Columbus, Georgia 31902

For Immediate Release

Telephone: (706) 748-2034

www.mcsdga.net

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NEWS RELEASE

Parents and Legal Guardians Required to Sign Residency Affidavit

(Columbus, GA)-The Muscogee County School District (MCSD) now requires all parents, custodians, and legal guardians to sign a residency affidavit. The required affidavit is implemented for the 2010-2011 school year to help the district determine non-residents. Suspected, false residency reports or claims of possible non-residents can be made in the form of a phone call to the hotline (706) 748-2267, the Central Registration office (706) 748-2208, or the principal of the school the student attends. The receiver of the call will ask for the name of the student, the parent's name, the address of the legal guardian, and the reason the caller suspects the student may be receiving an education illegally in the district.

A report may also be submitted in writing to the Director of Student Services or the Chief Student Services Officer, located at 2960 Macon Road, Columbus, Georgia, 31906. The report should include the names of the student, parent/legal guardian's address, and the reason the reporter believes the student is attending MCSD public schools illegally.

Upon investigation, if an out-of-county/out-of-state student is discovered by school officials to be attending Muscogee County schools without paying tuition, a letter will be issued to the parent/legal guardian stating the cost to educate the child. The parent or legal guardian will be asked to present competent evidence regarding the residency of the student and be subject to attorney fees, court costs, filing fees, witness costs, and any miscellaneous costs incurred with the legal action required to collect the debt. If it is determined that a deliberate falsification of a residency statement occurred, the student will be immediately withdrawn and all back tuition will be due and payable immediately.

Where the residency of a student is in question, in addition to meeting MCSD's registration requirements, a parent/guardian may be required to provide up to three of the following items of proof to the school principal or Superintendent:

1. Proof of Muscogee County Homestead Exemption;
2. Proof of purchase of Muscogee County automobile tag(s);
3. Proof of voter registration in Muscogee County;
4. Utility bills for one (1) year on both residences where parents own two (2) or claim two (2) separate residences and one (1) being outside Muscogee County;
5. A good faith showing that the parents reside in Muscogee County. (Example: neighbor's statements); and
6. Other good and sufficient information requested to demonstrate actual residency in Muscogee County;
7. Occupancy Permit if moving into a newly constructed home;

Determination of where the child and parent/legal guardian sleep at night will also be relevant.

For more information, e-mail communications@mcsdga.net .

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PARENT / GUARDIAN / CUSTODIAN AFFIDAVIT

I hereby swear, depose, and state under oath the following:

1. I am competent to testify and to issue this affidavit.
2. All the facts contained herein are based upon my personal knowledge and are true and correct.
3. I have read and understand all Notices given on the opposite side of the affidavit.
4. I understand that it is the policy of the Muscogee County School District to admit only students living within its boundaries who actually reside with a parent, legal guardian, or a person or government agency that has legal custody of said child by valid Court Order.
5. I understand that a child admitted under falsified information is illegally enrolled and will be dismissed from the Muscogee County School District Schools if discovered.
6. I understand that false swearing is a violation of the criminal codes of the State of Georgia and that I could be prosecuted if I provide false information in this affidavit.
7. I further understand that a parent, legal guardian, government agency or the undersigned, as the case may be, is legally responsible to pay tuition for a child that illegally attends the Muscogee County School System.
8. As of the date of this affidavit, I am a legal resident of Muscogee County, Georgia.
9. I am the parent, legal guardian or legal custodian of the following child(ren) by way of birth or valid court order **(if custody is by a valid court order, a certified court order must be attached hereto):**

Student's Full Name

Date of Birth

10. Said child resides at: _____
11. I: a) Own my residence at: _____
b) Rent/lease my residence at: _____
c) Occupy a residence at: _____

(If this paragraph is filled out, the Lessee or Owner must sign affidavit required by the school system).

12. My home telephone number is _____ (Cell) _____
13. Parent/legal guardian/legal custodian's place of employment: _____
Employer address: _____
Employer telephone number: _____
14. If said child is illegally enrolled in Muscogee County Schools, I promise to pay all tuition that is due to the Muscogee County Board of Education within ten (10) days of receipt of a bill for the same.
15. I promise to pay all expenses of litigation and attorney's fees incurred by Muscogee County Board of Education, if tuition is collected by an attorney.
16. I promise to notify the child's school within five (5) working days if I or said child should change residence and agree to sign a new Residency Affidavit within said time.
17. I hereby consent to representatives of this school system visiting said child and the undersigned at the address set forth above to verify the contents of this affidavit.

NOTICE OF PENALTIES AND LIABILITY:

I understand that (initial each line):

1. _____ If I falsify information or defraud the School District on this affidavit, I will be obligated to pay for the cost incurred by the local school system for the period during which the ineligible student is enrolled, and shall remunerate the local school system as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-133(a).
2. _____ If the costs incurred by the local school system are collected by an attorney, I will be obligated to pay for all expenses and attorney's fees incurred by the Board of Education in the collect of same.
3. _____ I may be prosecuted, held criminally liable, and imprisoned for not less than one nor more than ten years if I am found guilty of forgery in the first degree, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 16-9-1.
4. _____ I may be prosecuted, held criminally liable, and imprisoned for not less than one nor more than five years if I am found guilty of forgery in the second degree, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 16-9-2.
5. _____ I may be prosecuted, held criminally liable, and punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years, or both, if I am found guilty of making false statements pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 16-10-20.
6. _____ I may be prosecuted, held criminally liable, and punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years, or both, if I am found guilty of false swearing pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 16-10-71.
7. _____ By initialing on the lines provided next to each of the items listed above, I affirm that I have read and understand each of these provisions.

Parent / Guardian

Witness