



Residency Notification and Verification

To: Lowell School Committee

From: Jeannine M. Durkin, Acting Superintendent of Schools

Date: January 7, 2019

This is to inform you of an upcoming notification that will be sent to all families in multiple languages via ConnectEd during the week of February 3, 2019. The purpose of this notice is to remind families about Massachusetts General Law Chapter 76, section 5 that details residency requirements for public schools. What follows is the script that will be sent out to remind families of their legal obligation and actions they can take if they have questions about the residency legislation.

ConnectEd Script:

Good evening - This is the Lowell Public Schools calling with an important alert. We want to take this opportunity to remind you that all students attending school in Lowell must be residents of the City of Lowell with the exception of those students admitted under School Choice, students attending school under McKinney Vento and children of non-resident school employees who were approved by the Lowell School Committee prior to 2016.

It is important for students and parents to be informed about Massachusetts General Law Chapter 76, section 5, which details that the Lowell Public Schools only must provide an education for its Lowell residents; and, that the City of Lowell has the right to legally pursue (through the courts) any person who violates or assists in the violation of this provision. Any person who violates this law may be required to remit full restitution to the city of the improperly attended public school; in this case the City of Lowell. Please note that in an effort to ensure that all students who are attending the Lowell Public Schools are Lowell residents in accordance with the law and to address crowding in our schools, we want to give you fair notice that we will be conducting residency verifications for the purpose of identifying non-resident students who are misrepresenting their residency for the purposes of attending the Lowell Public Schools.

If you have questions relative to your residency status, please contact your school Principal or the Family Resource Center @ 978-674-4321.