

6.1.2 Admission to Schools:

- a. *Resident Students* – School-age children who reside within the municipal limits of the City of Gulf Shores, Alabama, may be admitted to Gulf Shores City Schools.

The school principal shall determine grade placement of students from a private or non-public school or from home education based on state regulations and applicable Gulf Shores City Board of Education rules regarding transfer of credit as well as other factors including test data, age, and previous school records.

Admission may be denied a student who is over seventeen (17) years of age and who has been dismissed from previous schools for violation of the rules of the school with the exception of resident students who have current Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

When a student facing some type of disciplinary action is withdrawn from school prior to receiving the punishment, said student (and his/her parent/legal guardian) is to be informed that prior to admission/readmission to any Gulf Shores City school, the disciplinary action assigned must be completed. This includes any suspension, alternative program placement, work assignment, or referral to the Superintendent or board for a hearing.

- b. *Non-resident Students* – A student whose parent/legal guardian resides outside the jurisdiction of the Gulf Shores City Board of Education may be eligible to attend a Gulf Shores City school. To be considered for initial enrollment in the Gulf Shores City School System, the parent/legal guardian of a non-resident student shall submit an annual written application to the Superintendent for consideration.

No student shall be denied enrollment on the basis of race, sex, religion, or national origin.

A. The following factors (other than the priorities listed in Section G. of this policy below) shall be considered and used by the Superintendent as the basis for granting permission for a non-resident student to enroll/continue enrollment in the Gulf Shores City schools:

1. The availability of an instructional program that meets the education, physical and emotional needs of the student;
2. The ability to accommodate the applicant without placing undue financial burden on the Gulf Shores City School System;

3. The availability of space at the grade level and school;
4. The student's previous attendance record;
5. The student's academic performance at the average or above average level as determined through a review of grades, academic records, and standardized test results;
6. The student's satisfactory history of behavior as determined by a review of discipline records;
7. The student's satisfactory record of payment of school financial obligations and/or tuition;
8. The parent's/legal guardian's agreement to pay an annual tuition determined by the Gulf Shores City Board of Education. A student's enrollment, if approved, will not become active until tuition is received;
9. The parent's/legal guardian's and student's agreement to follow the rules, regulations, and codes of student conduct established by the Gulf Shores City School System and the various schools within the school system. Failure to comply with the rules and regulations may be cause for expulsion, the withdrawal of permission to attend a Gulf Shores City school, and forfeiture of tuition paid;
10. The parent's/legal guardian's agreement to provide transportation for the student. The Gulf Shores City School System does not provide transportation for non-resident students; and,

B. The Gulf Shores City School System has the right to revoke enrollment of any non-resident student based on any of the following conditions:

1. Inappropriate behavior or poor disciplinary record;
2. Excessive tardiness to school or poor school attendance;
3. Unsatisfactory academic performance;
4. Falsifying school/or legal documents;
5. Late tuition payments, if applicable;

6. An attempt to circumvent the policies/procedures of the school and/or the school system; and,
7. Any other good and sufficient reason.

C. If, during the school year, it becomes evident that the guardianship/residency of a student has been misrepresented in order to avoid tuition and that the student actually resides outside of Gulf Shores City, the student may immediately be withdrawn. If the student is not required to withdraw, tuition and a penalty fee (in an amount established by the Gulf Shores City Board of Education) will become due immediately. If tuition including the applicable penalty fee is not forthcoming, the student will be withdrawn. Such a student shall fall under the admission criteria for non-resident students.

D. When requesting enrollment, proof of guardianship and/or legal custody must be provided along with proof of residency for both parents/legal guardians. The Gulf Shores City School System accepts only legal guardianship/custody documents as authorized by a court of law. Notarized affidavits, educational guardianship records, or other types of statements are not acceptable as proof of guardianship/custody. When divorced parents share legal custody, the residence of the primary, physical custodial parent shall be used to determine the resident/non-resident status of the enrolling student in the Gulf Shores City Schools.

E. **Tuition Information:** Non-resident student tuition shall be paid each year prior to registration and enrollment. The tuition must be paid in full prior to the beginning of the school year, unless an exception is granted by the Superintendent on a case-by-case basis. Failure to pay tuition according to the established payment date(s) will cause the student(s) to be withdrawn from the Gulf Shores City School System.

F. Non-resident students who enroll at times other than the beginning of a semester shall pay tuition on a prorated basis for the balance of the school year/semester of attendance.

G. The decision to admit non-resident students shall be discretionary. When capacity exists based on the criteria listed above in Section A. of this policy, non-resident students shall be admitted based on these priority levels:

1. Full-time employees of the Gulf Shores City Board of Education who live outside of the City of Gulf Shores may request enrollment for their child(ren) in the Gulf Shores City School System by following all non-resident student procedures. *Tuition may be waived for such non-resident students at the Superintendent's discretion.*
2. When a current student is attending a Gulf Shores City School pursuant to the separation agreement and his or her sibling that is living within the same household wishes to attend a Gulf Shores City School, the parent/legal guardian may request that his/her child receive priority for submission and approval of a non-resident enrollment application. However, the Gulf Shores City School System is not obligated to provide transportation for the student(s) under such circumstances.
3. The Gulf Shores City Board of Education acknowledges that new attendance zones created by the Separation Agreement may cause significant logistical hardships for many students to obtain a public education. Any student that has been adversely affected by the change in attendance zones in this manner may be eligible to receive priority status for non-resident admission under this policy and the Superintendent determines that his or her public school assignment creates such a hardship and said hardship could be remedied by accepting that student via non-resident admission to Gulf Shores City Schools. The decision to prioritize a student's application based on this section of this policy lies solely within the Superintendent's discretion.
4. After these priorities have been exhausted, all other students applying to be non-resident students in Gulf Shores City Schools shall have their applications evaluated on a first come, first serve basis.

H. When the parent/legal guardian of a current resident student establishes residence outside of Gulf Shores City during the academic year, the parent/legal guardian may request that

his/her child(ren) be allowed to complete the current semester by submission and approval of a non-resident enrollment application and payment of appropriate pro-rated tuition. However, the Gulf Shores City School System is not obligated to provide transportation for the student(s) under such circumstances.

- I. Students whose custodial parents or legal guardians own real property or a place of residence that is eligible for an annexation into the City of Gulf Shores but elect for said real property or residence to NOT be annexed into the City of Gulf Shores will not be eligible for admission under this policy.

Homeless Students: Nothing in this policy shall interfere with the implementation and application of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001.

*In the event the Superintendent decides to waive tuition for any of the students expressly noted above in Section G., it shall be done on a year-to-year basis and all children of said category shall enjoy the same privilege. The privilege for each category shall not be awarded individually unless it is consistent with another Section of this policy.

Reference(s): Code of Alabama 16-11-9