



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Ready for Board
Title	REQUIRED ADM COUNTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF STATE FUNDING AND VERIFICATION OF RESIDENCY FOR MEMBERSHIP
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#### **6250 - REQUIRED ADM COUNTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF STATE FUNDING AND VERIFICATION OF RESIDENCY FOR MEMBERSHIP**

The School Board expects enrolled students to be in regular attendance and engaged in the School Corporation's education programs in accordance with the provisions of the State compulsory attendance law, other provisions of State student attendance statutes found in I.C. 20-33-2, and the provisions of Policy 5200 Attendance. Additionally, the Board expects the cooperation of parents in monitoring the attendance of their children to comply with the above statutes and policies.

A major portion of State funding for school corporations is determined by a count of enrolled students taken on days selected by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE). This count is referred to as the Average Daily Membership ("ADM") count. The ADM counts in February and September are to be exact counts of eligible students enrolled in the Corporation by grade and school. An eligible student is a student who is enrolled in the Corporation on the ADM count day. A student may not be counted as an eligible student in more than one school corporation.

The Board requires the Superintendent to establish administrative guidelines that detail the procedures which will be followed by all staff members involved in taking the ADM count in each school. These guidelines shall be made with the purpose of establishing internal controls to provide for timely and accurate ADM reporting to the IDOE. These guidelines also shall assign to a building level staff member the duty and responsibility of compiling the ADM count. The ADM count in each school building shall be documented by providing a list of student names and unique student numbers assigned to each student through the IDOE system of identification. The individual assigned the duty and responsibility of compiling the ADM count shall sign a written certification of authenticity and accuracy of the count total, the accompanying student list of names and numbers, and the acknowledgment that each student on the list is an "eligible student" for the Corporation's ADM count. The individual assigned the duty and responsibility of compiling, documenting, and certifying the count in each school building shall submit said count, documentation, and certification to an individual assigned by the Superintendent to compile the total ADM count for the Corporation. The guidelines also shall detail the individual responsible for retaining the records of the ADM count and related documentation. The supporting documentation of enrollment and attendance information by grade and school building must be signed by the building principal and retained for audit purposes to substantiate the ADM count claimed. The guidelines shall require the individual submitting the ADM count to the IDOE to follow the IDOE Membership Layout instructional forms.

Before reporting any student for membership, the Corporation must consider the following expectations regarding student residency verification as well as exceptions to residency requirements.

#### **Definitions**

- A. **"Attending" means physical or virtual presence of a student with the expectation of continued services in the education programs for which the student is registered.**
- B. **"Enrolled" means to be:**

1. registered with the Corporation to attend educational programs offered by or through the Corporation; and
2. attending these educational programs or receiving educational services.

**Expectations for Student Residency Verification are as follows:**

- A. The Corporation must maintain proof of Indiana residency for each student in the student's electronic or hard copy file.
- B. Proof of residency must be filed for each student whom the Corporation counts for membership.
  1. For a student enrolling from one year to the next at the Corporation, a parent/guardian must confirm re-enrollment of the student either in-person or through an online registration process. If the Corporation brings forward enrollment from the prior year, students cannot be reported for Membership (ME, MA, MV) without verification of consistent attendance prior to the ADM count day.
  2. As part of the registration process (either in-person or online), the Corporation must share the residency information it currently has on file for each student. The parent/guardian must certify on a school-designed form that the student's address is either unchanged or changed. If changed, the new address should be updated, and the parent/guardian should be required to provide physical proof of the address change.
  3. A parent/guardian does not have to refile proof of residency each year for a student unless the address changes.
- C. Proof of residency must be on hand for each student prior to the student being claimed on the fall and/or spring membership count dates.
- D. If a student enrolls in the Corporation during the school year, proof of Indiana residency must be filed with the Corporation.
- E. If a student has a change of address from one school year to another, the prior residency documents must be maintained in the student's file. For audit purposes, the Corporation must be able to produce a physical or scanned copy of residency proof for current and prior residency of each student.
- F. Documentation supporting proof of residency may include such items as a current utility bill, telephone bill, tax return, bank statement, mortgage statement, rental/lease agreement, medical bill or other like information that provides a verifiable address. Documentation should be dated within sixty (60) days of student enrollment and the date should be clearly identified and readable on the copy on file for the student

Copies of these documents shall be retained by the Corporation in each student's cumulative file.

**Other Types of Proof of Residency:**

Some students may not have required residency documents due to McKinney-Vento status, Third Party Custodial status, Foster Care status, etc. The documentation of proof of residency for these students that must be maintained by the Corporation is set forth below.

**McKinney-Vento (Homeless)**

A completed IN Education for Homeless Children & Youth (INEHCY) McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program Housing Questionnaire may serve as documentation of proof of residency for homeless students and must be retained by the Corporation as proof of residency if the above-referenced documentation is not available. (See also Policy 5111.01 - Homeless Students)

**Third-Party Custodial**

The Corporation shall maintain the residency documents of the custodial guardian the student is residing with as documentation of proof of Indiana residency. (See also Policy 5111 - Determination of Legal Settlement and Eligibility for Enrollment of Student without Legal Settlement in the Corporation)

**Placement of a student by DCS, FSSA, Courts, etc.**

The Corporation shall maintain either of the following as documentation of proof of Indiana residency of the student:

- A. Residency documents from the custodial guardian, foster family, etc. with whom the student is residing.
- B. A court order, placement letter or other document evidencing the placement on the appropriate state or county letterhead.

(See also Policy 5111.03 - Children and Youth in Foster Care)

**Exceptions to Indiana Residency Requirements include:**

**Foreign Exchange student**

This applies to foreign exchange students who are residing in, enrolled and attending the Corporation, excluding foreign students enrolled and attending with an F1 Visa. The Corporation shall maintain residency documents of the host family with whom the student is residing for proof of Indiana residency.

(See also Policy 5114 - Nonimmigrant Students and Foreign Exchange Program)



## Student of an active Military family member

The Corporation shall maintain the following as documentation of proof of Indiana residency for a student of an active Military family member:

- A. Official military order of deployment or pending transfer supported in writing on official letterhead from the appropriate military branch.
- B. The address may include a temporary on-base leased home or apartment, purchased or leased home or apartment or federal government housing or off-base military housing.

(See also Policy 5111.02 - Educational Opportunity for Military Children)

## Required Count of Students Completing Graduation Requirements Before Second Semester ADM Counts

Each high school principal in the School Corporation shall be responsible to prepare a count of students enrolled in the first semester and were counted in the fall ADM count and who:

- A. successfully completed graduation requirements to earn a diploma before the February ADM count; and
- B. were not enrolled on the day in February fixed by the State Board of Education for the spring ADM count.

This count shall be reported to the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) along with other information the IDOE may request that is necessary to verify the number reported.

## Other Information ADM Counts

All staff members who participate in the ADM count are expected to be ethical in counting only those students who meet the definition of 'eligible student' in the ADM count. Any staff member participating in the ADM count who fails to comply with this policy, the related administrative guidelines, and the directives of the IDOE and Indiana State Board of Accounts ('SBOA') for taking an ADM count is subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

If the Corporation offers a 'virtual education program,' more robust internal controls must be developed to ensure compliance with I.C. 20-24-7-13(h). The Board requires the Superintendent to include in the administrative guidelines controls that clarify under what conditions a student is considered to be 'enrolled' when participating in a virtual education program and how much activity or progress a student must engage in to be considered in attendance.

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Note: This policy was prepared to meet the SBOA's requirements for a "student engagement policy" as outlined in the December 2019 School Bulletin, Volume 228, page 4. It has been further modified to meet the IDOE's August 27, 2020 Memorandum providing written guidance on verification of Indiana residency as it relates to reporting students for membership.

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I.C. 20-33-2  
August 27, 2020, Indiana Department of Education Guidance on Verification of Residency for Membership