

6.1.2 Admission to Schools

a. Resident Students – School-age children who reside within the municipal limits of the City of Guntersville, Alabama, may be admitted to Guntersville City Schools. For purposes of this policy, the residence of the student will be the residence of the custodial parent or legal guardian. If custody of the child is shared, alternating, or unclear, or if the child does not reside with a custodial parent or legal guardian, the domicile or actual physical residence of the child will control, except when there is evidence that the claimed residence of the child is not his actual residence, or that the claimed residence is fraudulently given as a means of avoiding or violating admission, enrollment, attendance, and residency standards and requirements.

Non-Resident Enrollment Policy

b. Non-resident Students – The Board may permit students who do not reside within the Guntersville City School District to attend schools within the school system. The Board has established criteria for admission of non-resident students, and may require the payment of tuition as a prerequisite to enrollment. The Board will not provide transportation to and from school or homebound instruction outside of the municipal limits of the City of Guntersville.

b (i) POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

Non-Resident Students are defined as any student who has a primary residence outside the Guntersville City limits. A student must maintain residency with a parent or appointed legal guardian.

Any student currently attending a Guntersville City school Pre-K through 12th grade is considered an “enrolled” student. Pre-K admission does not automatically guarantee Kindergarten admission if the student resides outside of the attendance zone. Out of district Pre-K students will have to apply to the enrollment committee for consideration for kindergarten admission during the scheduled kindergarten registration.

It is the sole responsibility of the parent/guardian to be aware of residency. Any attempt to circumvent residency policy by the student(s) or parent(s) may result in withdrawal of the student(s) from Guntersville City Schools.

NON-RESIDENT ENROLLMENT

- Approval for Non-Resident Students will follow Guntersville’s Non-Resident Enrollment Tier Procedures.
- Non-Resident Students may apply for open enrollment until June 15.
- Kindergarten enrollment is held during spring registration and non-resident students may petition for enrollment during this time.
- Non-Resident Students must be approved for enrollment prior to making any deposits.
- Non-Resident students who withdraw from Guntersville City Schools may not re-enroll unless their residence is within the school district.
- Non-Resident enrolled students will need to complete a Non-Resident Tuition Contract and pay full amount no later than July 15.
- Non-resident students must pay tuition in full before paying for any extracurricular activities or other school related expenses.
- Guntersville City Schools will not accept a student who is under suspension or expulsion in another school system or who withdraws from another school system to avoid suspension or expulsion for enrollment. It is the responsibility of the enrollment applicant to provide any information pertaining to any outstanding or pending discipline.

- If an out of district student has one or more issues related to attendance, disciplinary infractions, and/or failing grades, the student may be withdrawn and must attend the school for which the student is zoned.
- If an out of district student is brought before the disciplinary review committee (DRC) for a Class III offense, the student will be subject to immediate withdrawal from GCS and referred to the district in which the student resides.
- Discrimination on the basis of sex, race, age, religious belief, disability, national origin, or ethnic group shall be prohibited in all educational programs and activities of Guntersville City Schools. Guntersville City Schools will comply with IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

NON-RESIDENT EXEMPTIONS

- Students accepted into the Pre-K Academy do not pay non-resident tuition, but are required to pay tuition established by the Office of School Readiness Programs.
- Students of current Guntersville City employees including certified personnel, instructional personnel, non-instructional personnel, non-certified, and contract personnel are not required to pay non-resident tuition.

RESIDENCY CHANGES

- Resident Students who move outside the Guntersville City limits during the school year are responsible for notifying the principal's office immediately when residency or guardianship changes. If a current student becomes a Non-Resident Student during the school year, full tuition is due immediately. No proration will be awarded. Any attempt to circumvent this policy by the student or parent may result in withdrawal of the student from Guntersville City Schools. If during the school year, it comes to the attention that guardianship has been misrepresented, in order to avoid tuition, and the child attending actually resides outside the city limits, tuition will become due immediately or the child will be withdrawn.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation for non-resident students will be the sole responsibility of the parent/guardian. The Schools of Guntersville will not provide transportation for any non-resident student.

ATHLETICS/EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Non-resident students may be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities per the rules and procedures set forth by the Alabama High School Athletic Association. Rules and procedures can be viewed at www.ahsaa.com

ANNUAL TUITION COSTS

Tuition rates for families who have at least one student enrolled in Guntersville City School as of 7/1/22.

- One student/household: \$300
- Two or more students/household currently enrolled: \$600
- Tuition must be paid or postmarked by July 15.
- Students will be withdrawn from Guntersville City Schools by August 1st if tuition is not paid.

- All deposits and payments are non-refundable.
- Non-payment of tuition, fees, late payment or returned check are grounds for withdrawal.
- Non-resident students must adhere to attendance policy, code of conduct, and make adequate academic progress to maintain grade advancement and/or earn credits necessary for graduation status.
- Tuition rates effective for families enrolling after or re-enrolling after withdrawal effective 7/1/22
- One student/household: \$500
- Two students/household: Additional \$300
- Additional students/household: Additional \$100 per student
- Tuition must be paid or postmarked by July 15.
- Students will be withdrawn from Guntersville City Schools by August 1st if tuition is not paid.
- All deposits and payments are non-refundable.
- Non-payment of tuition, fees, late payment or returned check are grounds for withdrawal.
- Non-resident students must adhere to attendance policy, code of conduct, and make adequate academic progress to maintain grade advancement and/or earn credits necessary for graduation status.

NON-RESIDENT TIER PROCEDURES

TIER 1:

Students who live with a parent or legal guardian in the Guntersville City limits.

- Students whose parent(s) are employees of Guntersville City Schools.
- Students who reside full-time with siblings who are currently enrolled in Guntersville City Schools.

Tier 1 Students will be admitted to Guntersville City Schools.

TIER 2:

- Students whose parent(s) graduated from Guntersville City Schools.
- Students who reside part-time with siblings who are currently enrolled in Guntersville City Schools.
- Part time is generally defined as living with an enrolled sibling for at least 50% of the time. However, admission will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Tier 2 Students may be admitted to Guntersville City Schools on a case-by-case basis if there is adequate space. Other factors will also be considered such as attendance, grades, discipline, etc. Each enrollee will be considered by a joint committee of counselors and administrators. The enrollment committee will consider if the student is in good standing at the previous school.

TIER 3:

- Students whose parent(s) are city employees, business owners in Guntersville, paying property taxes or city sales tax.
- A newly established business within Guntersville city limits or a newly hired city employee will have thirty (30) days from the establishment of the business (Business License) or date of employment to apply for enrollment.

Tier 3 Students may be admitted to Guntersville City Schools on a case-by-case basis if there is adequate space. Other factors will also be considered such as attendance, grades, discipline, etc. Each enrollee will be considered by a joint committee of counselors and administrators. The

enrollment committee will consider if the student is in good standing at the previous school. Any student admitted under the provision of a newly employed city employee or newly established business owner in Guntersville must submit payment for full tuition cost immediately and prior to their beginning school.

TIER 4:

- Students living outside the Guntersville City limits who meet none of the above criteria.

Tier 4 Students may be admitted to Guntersville City Schools on a case-by-case basis if there is adequate space. Other factors will also be considered such as attendance, grades, discipline, etc. The student must present a letter of good standing from the previous school. Each enrollee will be considered by a joint committee of counselors and administrators. The enrollment committee will consider if the student is in good standing at the previous school.

Admittance for TIER 2, 3, and 4 students will be decided on or before July 1st by the Enrollment Committee. No students who reside outside of the Guntersville City limits will be enrolled outside the open enrollment window.

7.1.6 Home School Enrollment The Guntersville City Board of Education will allow students who have been enrolled in a homeschool program to make an application for enrollment to Guntersville City Schools. Non- Resident students must apply for admission by June 15th. The Guntersville City Board of Education will maintain a screening process to include the approved universal screening tool utilized by each school and a review committee to determine the grade level and/or credits accumulated for the potential student. Students with special circumstances will be considered on an individual basis by the school and board of education administrators.

A student who withdraws from the Guntersville School District to homeschool may not re-enroll until the open enrollment period. (Last day of school year and until June 15).

The Guntersville City Board of Education will allow students who are enrolled in a homeschool program participate in athletics as is permitted by Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) guidelines. Homeschooled students planning to participate in Guntersville City Schools athletic programs must meet AHSAA guidelines as well as satisfy admission requirements for Guntersville City Schools. Policy Adoption: June 27, 2022