

ADMISSION, PLACEMENT AND AGES OF ATTENDANCE

Ledyard Public Schools shall be open to all children aged four (4) to twenty (20) years, inclusive, provided that they reach age five (5) on or before the first day of January of the school year in which they enroll, are not graduates of a high school or state technical high school, and are not under suspension or expulsion pursuant to Board policy.

Each such child shall have, and shall be so advised by the appropriate school authorities, an equal opportunity to participate in the activities, programs and courses of study offered in such public schools, at such time as the child becomes eligible to participate in such activities, programs and courses of study, without discrimination on account of race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin or sexual orientation.

Students who are classified as homeless under federal law and, therefore, do not have a fixed residence, will be admitted pursuant to Policy 5118.1, *Homeless Students*.

Special education services will be provided for children who have attained the age of three (3) and who have been identified by the District as experiencing a developmental delay such that their educational potential will be irreparably diminished without special education.

A student who has attained the age of seventeen (17) and has voluntarily terminated enrollment in Ledyard High School and who subsequently seeks readmission may be denied readmission for up to ninety (90) school days from the original date of the termination of enrollment. If, however, the student seeks readmission not later than ten (10) school days after such termination, the student shall be readmitted within three (3) school days of the readmission request.

The District shall immediately enroll any student who transfers from Unified School District #1 or Unified School District #2. If the student attended Ledyard Public Schools prior to enrollment in Unified School District #1 or Unified School District #2, the student shall be enrolled in the school that the student previously attended, provided such school has the appropriate grade level for the student.

The Department of Children and Families and the Judicial Department shall provide to the Superintendent any educational records within their custody of a child seeking to enter or return to the District from a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, or any other residential placement, prior to the child's entry or return. However, receipt of the educational records shall not delay a child from enrolling in school. The Superintendent shall provide such information to the Principal at the school the child will be attending. The Principal shall disclose such information to staff members as is appropriate.

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Each child entering Ledyard Public Schools for the first time must present a birth certificate or offer legal evidence of birth data, as well as proof of a recent health assessment and required immunizations, except for those students classified as homeless in accordance with federal law.

The District shall provide for health assessments and required immunizations without charge to all pupils whose parents or guardians meet the eligibility requirements for free and reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Program.

Residency Requirements

Ledyard Public Schools provides educational services to students who:

- Are residents of the Town of Ledyard or reside within the Ledyard portions of the New London Submarine Base and the Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Indian Reservation;
- Have been approved to attend the Agri-Science and Technology Education program at Ledyard High School;
- Have been placed within Ledyard by a “public agency” in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) 10-76d and 10-253;
- Are an out-of-town student for whom the District has entered into an agreement with either their parent(s)/guardian(s) or their home Board of Education; or
- Meet one of the exceptions for attending Ledyard Public Schools as specified in Policy 5118, *Non-Resident Students*.

The requirements for verifying residency status and eligibility to attend Ledyard Public Schools and the process to be followed when residency status is in question are delineated in Policy 5111.3, *Determining Residency Status and Appeal Process*.

Students who are not residents of Ledyard, except as specified above, may not attend Ledyard Public Schools. The Board may take legal action to recoup the cost of educating students found to have been illegally attending schools in the District pursuant to Policy 5111.3.

A student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) is/are required to notify the building Principal when they are no longer residents of Ledyard. In exceptional situations, the Superintendent may allow the student to complete the school year pursuant to Policy 5118.

Placement

Children who have attained the age of nineteen (19) or older may be placed in an alternative educational program if they cannot acquire a sufficient number of credits for graduation by age twenty-one (21).

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Children who apply for initial admission to the District's schools by transfer from nonpublic schools or from schools outside the District will be placed at the grade they would have reached elsewhere pending observation and evaluation by classroom teachers, guidance personnel, and the school Principal. After such observations and evaluations have been completed, the Principal will determine the final grade placement of the children.

Exceptions for Children of Military Families

A special power of attorney, relative to the guardianship of a child of a military family and executed under applicable law shall be sufficient for the purposes of enrollment and all other actions requiring parental participation and consent.

Children of military families shall be enrolled in Ledyard Public Schools and conditionally placed based on whatever educational information was provided by the sending school. Simultaneous with the enrollment and conditional placement of the student, the District shall request the student's official education record from the school in the sending state. The appropriateness of the student's placement shall be validated upon receipt of the official education record.

Children of military families shall have thirty (30) days from the date of enrollment to obtain any required immunizations. For a series of immunizations, initial vaccinations must be obtained within thirty (30) days.

Students shall be allowed to enroll in Ledyard Public Schools at the grade level commensurate with their grade level, including kindergarten, from the sending state at the time of transition, regardless of age. A student that has satisfactorily completed the prerequisite grade level in the sending state shall be eligible for enrollment in the next highest grade level in Ledyard Public Schools, regardless of age. A student transferring after the start of the school year shall be placed in the same grade level as previously enrolled in the sending state.

When the student transfers before or during the school year, the District shall initially honor placement of the student in educational courses based on the student's enrollment in the sending state school and educational assessments conducted at the school in the sending state if the courses are offered. Course placement includes, but is not limited to, honors, International Baccalaureate, advanced placement, vocational, technical and career pathways courses. Continuing the student's academic program from the previous school and promoting placement in academically and career challenging courses should be paramount when considering placement. This does not preclude Ledyard Public Schools from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in the courses.

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The District shall initially honor placement of the student in educational programs based on current educational assessments conducted at the school in the sending state or participation and placement in like programs in the sending state. Such programs include, but are not limited to: (1) Gifted and talented programs; and (2) English as a second language. This does not preclude Ledyard Public Schools from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student.

In compliance with the federal requirements of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*, 20 U.S.C.A. Section 1400 et seq., the District shall initially provide comparable services to a student with disabilities based on his current individualized education program. Additionally, in compliance with the requirements of Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act*, 29 U.S.C.A. Section 794, and with *Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act*, 42 U.S.C.A. Sections 12131-12165, Ledyard Public Schools shall make reasonable accommodations and modifications to address the needs of incoming students with disabilities, subject to an existing 504 or Title II Plan, to provide the student with equal access to education. This does not preclude the District from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student.

Responsibilities

The Superintendent shall (1) develop administrative procedures to carry out the requirements of this policy and (2) notify students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) of the requirements of this policy and related procedures annually via student handbooks and whenever a student enrolls after the start of the school year.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) of students who are enrolled in Ledyard Public Schools are required to inform the building Principal when they no longer reside in Ledyard.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) of students who are attending a magnet school at the District's expense are required to inform the Superintendent when they no longer reside in Ledyard.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes:

10-15c. Discrimination in public schools prohibited. School attendance by five-year-olds.

10-15f. Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

10-76a. Definitions.

10-76d. Duties and powers of boards of education to provide special education programs and services. Determination of eligibility for Medicaid. Development of individualized

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education program. Planning and placement team meetings. Public agency placements; apportionment of costs. Relationship of insurance to special education costs.

10-184. Duties of parents. School attendance age requirements.

10-186. Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance. Hearings. Appeals to state board. Establishment of hearing board. Readmission. Transfers.

10-204a. Required immunizations.

10-206. Health assessments.

10-206a. Free health assessments.

10-220. Duties of boards of education.

10-233a. Definitions.

10-233c. Suspension of pupils.

10-233d. Expulsion of pupils.

10-233k. Notification of school officials of potentially dangerous students. Provision of educational records of children returning to school from detention centers.

10-253. School privileges for children in certain placements, nonresident children, children in temporary shelters, homeless children and children in juvenile detention facilities.

Title 42, United States Code, Sections 11431- 11435 – *The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act*.

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