



★ Committed to Excellence ★

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Philip Salemi, Superintendent

January 8, 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members:

When I became Superintendent a year and a half ago, one of the tasks I was charged with by the Board of Education was to undertake the residency issue. It is the role and intent of the Board of Education to provide free education to all eligible students who legally reside within its boundaries. While we are flattered by those families who desire their children receive an education in District 92½, we also have a responsibility to the taxpayers of Westchester. With a growing student enrollment and an increase in the use of space in our buildings, not to mention District residency rules, we have taken appropriate action to investigate and remove any residency violators.

Our District Residency Policy states that only students who reside within the school district boundaries may attend District 92½ schools. A student's residence is the same as the person who has legal custody of the student. For the 2018-2019 school year, we instituted some changes to our registration process. All questionable enrollments underwent an investigation in collaboration with our District Office, Building Administration, and our School Resource Officer. As a result, 12 students were denied admission before the start of the school year. In addition to those 12 students, several other families never completed the registration process because of the changes we instituted. While we took measures to ensure people had the proper registration documents before enrollment, we have found there are still students attending our schools whose residency within district boundaries is in question. Through the coordination of the District Office, school personnel, and our School Resource Officer, we have since transferred out four additional students, while others are currently being investigated.

The actual cost to educate a child in our district is approximately \$11,250. Therefore, every family that violates our residency policy is taking money away from our students who are actual residents. In total, we have saved at least \$180,000 through our continued efforts.

My commitment to the Board and the taxpayers of Westchester is to make sure that legal residency remains a priority. If you know of or suspect any non-Westchester students who are attending school within District 92½ boundaries, please leave a message at 708-498-0989 or email [residency\\_check@sd925.org](mailto:residency_check@sd925.org). All information obtained and concerns shared will remain confidential. I will make sure to follow up on any information received. Thank you for your support on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Philip Salemi  
Superintendent