



4200 Alabama Highway 79 South – P.O. Box 129
Guntersville, Alabama 35976

Proposed Policy

6.1 Admissions and Attendance

6.1.1 Compulsory Attendance and Entrance Age – All persons between the age of six (6) and seventeen (17) years of age are required by state law to attend school for the minimum number of scholastic days prescribed by the State Board of Education unless the person holds a certificate of exemption issued by the Superintendent or is otherwise exempt under state law. *Students of any age younger than 6 enrolled in school are expected to adhere to the Guntersville City Board of Education attendance policy.* All laws regarding school attendance will be strictly enforced by the Guntersville City Board of Education. [Reference: Ala. Code §16-28-3 (1975)] The Guntersville City Board of Education expects all administrators and teachers to enforce attendance policies and procedures.

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.
- 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.
- 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.

6.1.2 C.

Homeless, Migratory, Immigrant, and Limited English Proficient Students, and Students in Foster Care – Pursuant to the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended by the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act 2001, all homeless, immigrants, migrants, and English language learners and Children in Foster Care must have equal access to the education, including public preschool education, provided to other children and youth. Such children will be provided the opportunity to meet the same challenging state content and state student performance standards to which all students are held without being stigmatized or isolated.

The enrollment of homeless, migrant, immigrant, limited English proficient children and youth, and students in foster care shall not be denied or delayed due to any of the following barriers:

The Guntersville City Schools are accredited by the AdvancED Commission and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement.

- Lack of birth certificate
- Lack of school records or transcripts
- Lack of immunization or health records
- Lack of proof of residency
- Lack of transportation
- Guardianship or custody requirements
- Lack of social security card

Students enrolling without a social security number will be assigned a temporary number by the Attendance supervisor.

6.1.3 Class Assignment

- a. *Class Assignment* – Principals will assign students to classes in keeping with school accreditation standards and any procedures or criteria that may be established at the system or school level.

6.1.4 Absences and Excuses – Students are not permitted to be absent from school without a valid excuse. Absences will be designated as excused or unexcused.

Excused absences will be permitted for the following reasons:

- Personal illness
- Hospitalization
- Emergency
- Death in immediate family
- Court subpoena
- Religious holidays
- Absences approved by the principal

Documentation supporting an excused absence must be submitted within 3 school days upon which time students will be allowed access to missed work. Notes will not be accepted after the 3rd day. Students will be allowed up to 5 days following their return to school to submit any missed work unless the student has extenuating circumstances and receives approval from their teacher(s). Students can only use 4 home/parent notes per semester. Submission of a doctor's note is not an automatic excused absence. Excessive unexcused absences ***will*** result in a loss of academic credit or referral of the matter to juvenile or other appropriate legal authorities for investigation. The Guntersville City Board of Education will consider the following tardies:

§ Tardies are considered excused for the same reasons absences are excused. Each principal may impose disciplinary measures for excessive tardies.

§ A student who has accumulated 7 unexcused absences during their senior year, will not be allowed to walk in grad ceremonies, participate in extracurricular activities. Additionally, a student who has accumulated 7 unexcused absences will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities.

§ The Guntersville City Board of Education will require a contract to be signed by parents and students after 4 unexcused absences outlining further consequences.

§ Students with excessive absences will be considered to not meet AHSAA requirements for participation

6.1.5 Truancy– Parents or guardians are required to ensure that students under their care, custody or control attend school regularly and on time. Habitual or excessive absences and/or tardies from school will require Board officials to refer the matter to juvenile authorities to include the initiation of truancy proceedings. Additionally, Board officials will report truancy issues to the Department of Motor Vehicles for consideration of a Driver's license suspension petition. Students residing outside of the Guntersville City Schools District with excessive absences or tardies will be subject to dismissal from the District.