



9981 Canterbury Street, Westchester, Illinois 60154  
(708) 450-2700 Fax (708) 450-2718

Philip Salemi, Superintendent

January 18, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As Superintendent, one of my responsibilities is to ensure that only children who are legal residents of the District are enrolled and attend school in the Westchester Public Schools. Since I became Superintendent in July 2017, I have been involved in several matters where a child's parent/guardian has attempted to enroll or enrolled the child based on false residency information. This issue is impacting our District, especially because of our growing student enrollment and an increase in the use of space in our buildings, and we are taking action to address it.

Under Illinois law and Board Policy 7:60, *Residence*, only children who reside within the District's boundaries may attend the Westchester Public Schools and receive a free public education. A child's residence is the same as the person who has legal custody of the child. While we recognize and are flattered that non-resident families may want their children to receive an education from the Westchester Public Schools, the District has a responsibility to its taxpayers to enroll only those children who legally reside within its boundaries.

The actual cost to educate a student in our District is approximately \$11,700. Therefore, every non-resident student who is enrolled in the District is taking money and resources away from students who are legal residents of the District.

When the District suspects that an enrolled student is not a resident of the District, Building Administrators, District Office personnel, and our School Resource Officer work in collaboration to investigate the student's residency. If it is determined that the student is not a resident of the District, we notify the student's parent/guardian that the student no longer can attend school in the District and assess the amount of tuition that the parent/guardian owes the District for the time the student attended school in the District as a non-resident. We have actively investigated cases brought to our attention since the beginning of the school year and will continue to do so.

As we head into registration for the 2018-2019 school year, I want to remind you that only children who are legal residents of the District are permitted to attend the Westchester Public Schools. All students whom the District suspects are not legal residents of the District or whose parents/guardians submit residency documentation that the District suspects is false are subject to investigation and potential criminal penalties.

More information regarding the 2018-2019 registration process will be forthcoming. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via email ([psalemi@sd925.org](mailto:psalemi@sd925.org)) or by phone (708-670-1927).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PSalemi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Philip Salemi  
Superintendent

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