

Residency Documentation

The Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP) allows a student with a disability, who meets certain eligibility requirements, to receive a state-funded scholarship to attend a participating private school. Schools must retain copies of SNSP applications, including supporting documentation, for at least five (5) years from the end of the school year in which a SNSP student applies or five (5) years from when a SNSP student no longer attends the school, whichever occurs later.

All residency documentation must be verified within the twenty-one (21) day verification period after the SNSP application is received. If the originally provided residency documentation does not meet all of the requirements in Step 1, new documentation must be obtained that meets the requirements within the twenty-one (21) day verification period. If the new documentation is obtained outside of the twenty-one (21) day verification period, the student's SNSP application is considered "received" as of the date the new documentation is received. See the **Informational Bulletins available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/special-needs-scholarship/student-applications-processing> for additional information on student eligibility and application processing.**

STEP 1 – OBTAIN DOCUMENTATION

Participating private schools must obtain the required residency documentation from a SNSP student applicant. The residency documentation cannot have any information, including dates, covered with white-out. The residency documentation must meet all of the requirements below.

Required Date. All residency documentation must be dated within three (3) months prior to the date the application is received. If a lease agreement with a term is obtained, the date the application is received must fall within the term of the lease. The start date of a month to month lease must be dated within three (3) months prior to the date application is received.

The documentation provided must be one of the following: The list below is a complete list and includes all acceptable forms of residency documentation.

1. Wage statement or W2 year-end earnings statement.
2. Water, gas, electric, cable, satellite, or landline phone bill. Cell phone bills are not acceptable.

3. Lease agreement with a term that includes the required date. The lease agreement must be complete and legible. Expired leases are not acceptable. Generally, schools should try to obtain one of the allowed residency documents other than month-to-month leases. However, if a month-to-month lease is used, the start date must be during the required dates. Rent receipts ARE NOT an allowed residency document.
4. Governmental correspondence. Examples include a property tax bill, Supplemental Security Income “SSI”, Wisconsin Works “W2” Cash Benefits, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families “TANF,” Food Share “Food Stamps,” or Housing Assistance letter. Printed statements from Access.gov can be used as residency support if the statement includes a date that show it meets the date requirement.
5. Homeless individuals may identify a location for their residence if it is an identifiable location which could conceivably serve as a temporary residence. A homeless family should provide a letter on the organization’s letterhead from a shelter for the homeless or from a private or public organization providing services for homeless individuals that is signed and dated by a representative of the organization indicating that the family lived at the location during the required dates.
6. Properly completed Alternative Residency Verification form (Form PI-SNSP-003) only for situations where: (a) the student is not living with one of his or her parent/guardian (parent); or (b) the parent(s) does not have one of the residency documents above and someone else living at the address on the application is able to provide one of the residency documents above for the family. This form is available at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/special-needs-scholarship/student-applications>.

Include the student’s address on the application. The address must be the student’s address at the time of application. If the address on the SNSP student application does not match the address on the provided residency documentation, and the residency documentation has the correct address, then the address on the SNSP student application must be corrected. In order to correct the address, the incorrect information must be struck through, the correct information written in, and the SNSP administrator must initial the change. The application cannot have any information, including dates, covered with white-out.

If the address on the residency documentation is not correct, new residency documentation with the correct address must be obtained. The following chart outlines which address elements are required to match.

	Match Required?
Street Number	Yes
Street Direction (North, South, etc.)	Yes (abbreviations are allowed)
Street Name	Yes
Street Suffix (Lane, Road, Avenue, etc.)	Yes (abbreviations are allowed)
Unit/Apartment Number or Unit/Apartment Description (Upper, Lower, Unit E10, Apt 207, Lot 7, etc.)	No
City	Yes
State	Yes
Zip Code	No

Include the name of one of the parents/ guardians listed on the application. The first and last name of the parent on the residency documentation must match the supporting documentation. The middle initial and suffix do not need to match. If the parent name on the application is incorrect, the SNSP student application must be corrected. In order to correct the parent name, the incorrect information must be struck through, the correct information written in, and the SNSP administrator must initial the change.

Legal Name Change: If the parent has residency documentation with the current, legal name, it should be provided to the school. If the parent does not have residency documentation with the parent's current, legal name, then the school should obtain additional documentation to verify the parent's legal name. Examples of acceptable additional documentation include a birth certificate, marriage certificate, divorce decree, certificate of naturalization, certificate of citizenship, etc. Either a copy of the document or the information explained in Appendix A must be maintained in the student file. Appendix A explains the documentation that must be included in the student file for a birth certificate, marriage certificate, certificate of naturalization, or certificate of citizenship, since these documents cannot be copied.

The additional documentation must be obtained within the twenty-one (21) day application review period. If the additional documentation is obtained outside of the twenty-one (21) day application review period, then the application is considered received when the documentation is obtained.

Name Misspellings: If the parent has other residency documentation with the name correctly spelled, they should provide the other documentation to the school. If the parent does not have other documentation that correctly spells the parent's name, then the parent can email or provide a signed letter to the school stating:

“My correct legal name is (name on student application). The name on my residency documentation is (name on residency documentation). My name is incorrectly spelled on the documentation and correct on the SNSP student application.”

STEP 2 – SCHOOL DISTRICT VERIFICATION

The school must determine if the applicant's home is located in the school district listed on the SNSP application. If the school determines that the incorrect resident school district is listed on the application, then the name of the resident school district on the SNSP student application must be corrected. In order to correct the school district, the incorrect information must be struck through, the correct information written in, and the SNSP administrator must initial the change.

For students who reside in Milwaukee, Racine or Kenosha, see the specific school district verification guidance section below pertaining to the specific city/region. Schools should maintain a screen print or printout that includes the address and school district for their auditor review. Please also see the frequently asked questions in Appendix B for answers to commonly asked questions.

If a school is not able to determine a student's resident school district using the methods provided below, then the school should contact the county clerk, city clerk, or public school district and request an email from them or a letter on their official letterhead stating the school district in which the address is located.

Racine: If a SNSP student applicant or continuing student applicant lives in Racine, schools may use the RUSD transportation website at <http://205.213.125.57/livewq/webquery/>. Addresses that are in the RUSD

transportation website are in the Racine Unified School District. Additionally, schools may use the general options available for all school districts.

Milwaukee: If a SNSP student applicant or continuing student lives in Milwaukee, schools may use the school district verification methods listed below in addition to the general options available for all school districts.

- Map It: http://itmdapps.ci.mil.wi.us/MyMHome/SearchDB2_prod.jsp Addresses that are included in Map It are in the City of Milwaukee.
- Milwaukee Election Commission: <http://itmdapps.milwaukee.gov/electedreps/pollingElectedReps/checkAddress.jsp>. If the address is in the City of Milwaukee, a voting location and office holder report will be displayed.

Kenosha: If a SNSP student applicant or continuing student applicant lives within the Kenosha Unified School District (KUSD), schools may use the KUSD Boundary Interactive Map <http://www.kusd.edu/schools/school-boundaries>. Addresses that are displayed with a pinpoint on the map are within the district. The message “That location is outside the district boundaries.” is displayed for addresses outside the district. Additionally, schools may use the general options available for all school districts.

District Verification Options for All Districts: Schools may use any of the below methods to determine the school district in which an address is located.

- Copy of property tax bill. Please note that certain individuals (such as those who rent) may not have a copy of the property tax bill.
- My Vote Wisconsin can be used for addresses where the school district is shown for school board elections. <https://myvote.wi.gov/> Click Regular Voter. Click Address Search. Enter address and click search. Scroll down to the “What’s on My Ballot?” section to see if there is a school board election with the school district name.
- County Clerk or County Assessor web Sites:
 - <http://www.wisconsincountyclerks.org/county-clerk-profiles>. Click on your county on the map.
 - http://www.doa.state.wi.us/Documents/DIR/Land_Information/Parcel_Initiative/County_Contacts.pdf Click on your county under the Real Property Lister Link column.
- City Clerk or City Assessor web sites: Search to see if there is an online site for the city that contains property tax bills with the school district identified.
- Statewide Parcel Map: <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/Divisions/Intergovernmental-Relations/Land-Information-Program/Statewide-Parcel-Map-Initiative/>. See Appendix C for detailed instructions.
- County Land Information: http://www.doa.state.wi.us/Documents/DIR/Land_Information/Parcel_Initiative/County_Contacts.pdf Click on your county under the GIS Website Link column.
- Public School District Online Interactive Boundary Map Websites: If a public school district has an online interactive map website that displays the parent’s address and has a notation on the map (pin, flag, dot, etc.) showing the address is located within the school district, these sites can be used by schools to verify the resident school district. Some examples of these sites are the KUSD Boundary Interactive Map on page 1 and the West Allis-West Milwaukee School Attendance Area site http://www.wawm.k12.wi.us/district/district_information/school_attendance_areas.

Appendix A - Vital Record Verification

If a birth certificate, marriage certificate, certificate of naturalization, or certificate of citizenship is provided for a name change the school should not make a copy of the document. Instead, the school should do one of the following and maintain the document in the student file:

- 1) Birth certificate: Complete a copy of the “Annotation of Birth Record/Facts” form <http://www.wrdaonline.org/VitalRecords/AnnotationAbstractedBirthFacts4.pdf>.
- 2) Marriage certificate: The school should draft a letter that includes the following: (1) the first and last name of both spouses; (2) the date of the marriage; (3) the government entity that issued the marriage license (e.g., state registrar, local registrar, U.S. Dept. of State, or other foreign country); and (4) the signature and signature date of the school employee drafting the letter.
- 3) Certificate of naturalization or certificate of citizenship: The school should draft a letter that includes the following: (1) the individual’s legal name; (2) the date the document was issued; (3) the government entity that issued the document (e.g., state registrar, local registrar, U.S. Dept. of State, or other foreign country); and (4) the signature and signature date of the school employee drafting the letter.

Appendix B – School District Verification Frequently Asked Questions

1. What should schools do if they cannot find the resident school district for an address using the methods provided?

If a school is not able to determine a student's resident school district using the methods provided above, then the school should contact the county clerk, city clerk, or school district and request an email from them or a letter on their official letterhead stating the school district in which the address is located.

2. What if the verification method only shows the public school district number and not the public school district name?

If only the public school district number is identified, cross reference the public school district name on the School District Domain Directory <http://dpi.wi.gov/gis/school-district-domain-directory> and write the public school district name on the printout.

3. What parts of the parent's address must match the address on the school district verification document?

The parts of the address that must match are the same as those that must match for the residency documentation. See the table in the proof of residency section for the parts of the address that must match.

4. What if the apartment number, unit, lot number, etc. is not available from the documentation sources to verify which public school district an address is located in?

For some properties (i.e. trailer parks, apartment buildings, etc.), the apartment number, unit number or trailer park lot number may not be available from the verification methods. It is not required that the apartment number, unit number or trailer park lot number be on the school district verification document.

5. What if the parcel contains multiple properties and a different address comes up when you enter the parent's address?

For parcels that contain multiple properties (i.e. duplex, townhome complex, trailer parks, etc.), the address may have multiple street numbers in one parcel or have a main address with sub addresses. Schools should look at the county and city assessor web sites to try and connect the main parcel address to the parent's address. Some sites call these sub parcels or child parcels. Schools should keep documentation showing the main parcel address with the public school district and the documentation connecting the sub or child parcel to the main parcel.

Appendix C – Statewide Parcel Map Directions

The Statewide Parcel Map Initiative is a multi-year collaborative effort of the Department of Administration, State Cartographer's Office, and local governments.

Directions:

1. Go to: <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/Divisions/Intergovernmental-Relations/Land-Information-Program/Statewide-Parcel-Map-Initiative/>



2. Click


3. Click  in the Version 1 Statewide Parcel Map gray box to search for an address.



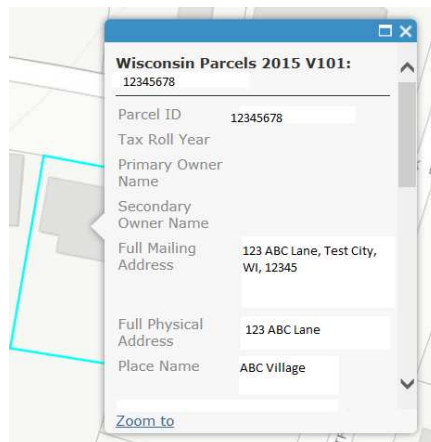
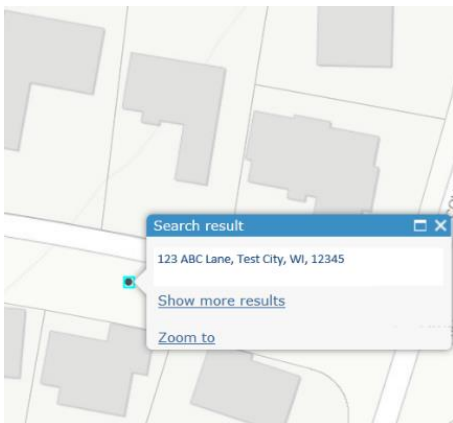
4. Enter address in “Where would you like to explore”. Include WI for state as part of the address. Click .

5. The parcel map will display with a blue dot near the address (left picture below).

6. Click on the **gray parcel close to the blue dot** to find the parcel for the specific address. The middle picture below will then be displayed.

7. Click  in the **middle box** below to display the full screen view. Print the full Parcel information for your records for a or b below.

- a. If the school district name is identified, use this to verify the district on the application.
- b. If the school district number only is identified, cross reference the school district name on the School District Domain Directory <http://dpi.wi.gov/gis/school-district-domain-directory> and write the school district name on the printout.
- c. If the school district number and name are not displayed, please use an alternative option in the email.



Wisconsin Parcels 2015 V101: 12345678	
Parcel ID	12345678
Tax Roll Year	
Primary Owner Name	
Secondary Owner Name	
Full Mailing Address	123 ABC Lane, Test City, WI 12345
Full Physical Address	123 ABC Lane
Place Name	ABC Village
School District	ABC School District
School District Number	12345
Improved Structure	YES
Total Assessed Value	
Assessed Value of Land	25,000
Assessed Value of Improvements	100,000
Estimated Fair Market Value	
Net Property Tax	
Gross Property Tax	
Class of Property	G1
Auxiliary Class of Property	
Deeded Acres	0.21
County Name	DANE
Load Date	06/08/2015
Parcel Source FIPS	025
Parcel Source	DANE COUNTY