

**Purpose**

To establish school attendance areas.

**Definitions**

Bona fide residence - one’s principal residence, maintained in good faith and does not include a residence established for convenience or for the purpose of free school attendance in Allegany County Public Schools. However, intent to reside indefinitely or permanently at the present place of residence is not necessarily required. Determination of a person’s bona fide residence is a factual one and must be made on an individual basis. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the bona fide residence of a student shall be presumed to be: (1) the bona fide residence of the student’s parents/guardians; and (2) if the parents live apart, the bona fide residence of the parent to whom sole legal custody is awarded, or the parent with whom the student regularly resides if sole custody has not been awarded.

Public School Employee – A certificated or non-certificated employee who is employed by a public school system for at least 190 days per year on a full time basis.

Child - Includes a natural child, foster child or a child who is domiciled in Allegany County.

**Policy Statement**

The county shall be divided into appropriate school attendance areas by the Board of Education of Allegany County. With the advice of the County Superintendent, the County Board shall determine the geographical attendance areas for each school.

A student who is a bona fide resident of Allegany County shall attend the school designated to serve the attendance area in which his/her legal guardian resides unless special permission has been granted by the Superintendent or his designee to attend a school in another attendance area in Allegany County.

Notwithstanding the authority of adjacent counties to establish geographical attendance areas pursuant to Section § 4-121 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Allegany County Board of Education may consider permitting individual students who do not reside in Allegany County to attend schools in Allegany County.

The Board of Education of Allegany County recognizes that exceptions to this policy may also be granted by state and/or federal laws such as kinship care and/or homelessness.

<b>Legal Reference</b>	Education Article §§ 7-101, 7-301, 4-121; 4-122.1	COMAR 13A.02.06.02	
<b>Policy History</b>	<b>Adopted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>	<b>Revised</b> Feb. 13, 2007, 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading April 11, 2007, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading April 8, 2008, 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading August 9, 2011, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading April 12, 2016, 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading May 10, 2016, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading May 9, 2023, 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading June 6, 2023, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading June 11, 2024, 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading Aug. 13, 2024, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading