



BREWSTER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

30 FARM TO MARKET ROAD, BREWSTER, NY 10509-9956

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July 27, 2018

Dear Community Members,

We are writing to clarify some important information regarding the residency verification process undertaken by the Brewster Central School District. These clarifications come after review of written guidance and subsequent communications from and conversations with representatives of the Commissioner of Education.

First, to review information that has been previously shared in updates to the community, the discussion about residency verification has been active for many months at public board meetings. A community task force was created to continue this discussion, and meetings of that task force have been and will continue to be publicly noticed so that anyone interested in being part of that conversation has the opportunity to do so. As a result of: (1) those discussions; (2) a review of the District's enrollment policy; (3) research regarding policies in surrounding school districts; (4) review of the law; and (5) consultation with the District's lawyers and an outside consultant, a decision was made to have all students in the District update their information under the District's new policy.

The legality of the District's revised policy, the constitutional right of all children to an education, and issues of reasonableness and fairness were considered as part of the process and discussed at the task force and board meetings.

The District will continue to provide updates of this process at our scheduled board meetings which are open to the public and are videotaped and available on the District's website.

Second, the process which was originally termed "Re-Registration" will now be referred to as "Residency Verification" to more accurately reflect our intent, which was to update and verify residency information rather than prevent any student from exercising his or her constitutional right to a free public education.

Third, we would like to emphasize that no student has been excluded from enrollment in the District as a result of this process. As explained in our previous updates to the public, all students will attend school in September as this process continues. We will continue to request that documentation be updated for all students, through our District Registrar, to ensure that all information is accurate and current. Documents may be submitted in any of the following ways:

- by appointment, as previously described
- email of scanned documents to registrar@brewsterschools.org
- via regular mail (30 Farm to Market Road, Brewster, NY 10509 ATTN: Registrar)
- beginning in September, drop boxes at the District Office and various locations throughout the towns/village (record of receipt will be provided and more details will be shared in a subsequent communication)
- walk-in/hand-deliver to school buildings and District Office

If there is another more convenient manner of submitting the paperwork that you would like to suggest, please reach out to the District Registrar at registrar@brewsterschools.org or call (845) 279-8000 x6110.

Please know that submitting these documents alone does not result in automatic verification of residency, as documents may be subject to further review.

Fourth, we will be making available additional opportunities for families to provide the District with updated and current information, including Saturday appointments (which will begin in September).

We re-emphasize that no student will be excluded from attending school solely as a result of this process, or as a consequence of not participating in this process. If a family does not provide documentation for a student(s), additional opportunities to supply information will be provided and a process will be initiated that includes a residency determination after careful investigation.

Sincerely,

Board of Education
Brewster Central School District