Frequently Asked Questions
Determining the Home School District

Last Updated 3/2/20

General

The Exceptional Student Services (ESS) Vouchers team receives many questions every year on how to properly identify the Home School District (HSD) for purposes of determining responsibility for an educational voucher. This document attempts to clarify certain questions or areas pertaining to the HSD flowchart.

Following the passage of Senate Bill 1177, the definition of Home School District in A.R.S. § 15-761 changed; this change was implemented 8/1/19

"Home School District" means the **school district or charter school** that the child last attended or, if the child has not previously attended a public school in this state, the school district in which the person resides who has legal custody of the child as provided in section 15-824, subsection B.

The following entities cannot be used to determine the home school district for purposes of an educational voucher when looking up previously attended school districts

When utilizing the flowchart and determining the appropriate home school district, these entities should be ignored when trying to determine the most recent schools attended:

- Accommodation schools
- Juvenile detention centers
- Bureau of Indian Affair Education schools
- Parochial schools
- Private schools
- Correctional facilities

Children that are wards of the state

If a specific person does not have legal custody of the child and parental rights have been severed, he or she is a ward of the state. To meet the best interest of the child within Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), if a parent still retains educational rights the child is not considered a ward of the state in terms of the flowchart.

Has the child previously attended an age-appropriate school district in Arizona if the child is a ward of the state?

This section has been clarified to refer to only school districts in the State of Arizona. Charters are not referenced to meet the intent of A.R.S. § 15-761 for wards of the state. If a child has not attended a school district (charters not considered) in the state of Arizona, then the HSD would defer to the age-appropriate school district of where the child is currently residing.

Please note that students who attended an accommodation school ignore this provision when determining the last school district attended. A.R.S. § 15-101 defines accommodation school as the following:

(a) A school that is operated through the county board of supervisors and the county school superintendent and that the county school superintendent administers to serve a military reservation or territory that is not included within the boundaries of a school district.
(b) A school that provides educational services to homeless children or alternative education programs as provided in section 15-308, subsection B.
(c) A school that is established to serve a military reservation, the boundaries of which are coterminous with the boundaries of the military reservation on which the school is located.

If the child is not a ward of the state, has not attended a school district or charter school in Arizona, and there is no legal guardian in the State of Arizona

In this scenario, the HSD would be the age-appropriate school district of the party or entity that is responsible for providing day-to-day care for the child.

Can ESS assist in identifying a legal guardian or home address for a student?

ESS does not have any information pertaining to legal guardianship or any addresses for students in the educational voucher system. This information must be gathered through the appropriate state placing agency.