



Exceptional Student Services

Frequently Asked Questions

Determining the Home School District

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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What is the statutory definition of the home school district?

Under A.R.S. § 15-761(9) “‘Home school district’ [HSD] 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. If the child is a ward of this state and a specific person does not have legal custody of the child or is a ward of this state and the child is enrolled in an accommodation school pursuant to section 15-913, the home school district is the district that the child last attended or, if the child has not previously attended a public school in this state, the school district within which the child currently resides.”

When were charter schools added to the statutory definition of the home school district?

Charter schools were added to the definition with the passage of Senate Bill 1177 (2019). This change became effective August 1, 2019.

Where can I find the flowchart for determining the home school district and a student's enrollment history?

The flowchart is available at [Flowchart for Determining the HSD](#). The ESS Vouchers Application under Help/Enrollment History is the most reliable tool to determine previous schools attended with an SSID# and date of birth. It displays grade level, entry/exit date, entity IDs, and CTDS numbers. Please note: [AzEDS Identity \(opens in new window\)](#) is useful for locating an SSID#, but it should not be used to determine enrollment history.

What entities should not be used to determine the home school district?

When utilizing the flowchart in 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 Affairs Education schools

- Parochial schools
- Private schools
- Correctional facilities
- Vocational schools

What does "age-appropriate" mean in the context of the flowchart?

"Age-appropriate" refers to whether a district or charter serves the student's current grade level.

- A unified district serves grades K–12.
- An elementary district serves grades K–8.

Example: If a 9th-grade student most recently attended an elementary district, that district is not age-appropriate and should be skipped when determining the HSD.

How is the flowchart applied for children who are wards of the state?

A child is considered a ward of the state when parental rights have been severed, and no individual holds legal custody. Under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), if a parent still retains educational rights, the child is not considered a ward of the state for purposes of the flowchart.

What if the child has not attended a school district or charter school in Arizona, and the legal guardian resides out of state?

In this situation, the HSD is the age-appropriate school district for the entity responsible for the child's day-to-day care. The RTC (Residential Treatment Center)'s address is used to determine this district.

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

No. ESS does not maintain information regarding legal guardianship or home addresses for students in the voucher system. This information must be obtained directly from the appropriate state placing agency.

For questions, [email us](mailto:ESSVouchers@azed.gov) at ESSVouchers@azed.gov.