



**Department of
Higher Education**

Mike DeWine, Governor
Randy Gardner, Chancellor

To: Registrars of Ohio's public colleges and universities
From: Michelle Chavanne, General Counsel
Date: March 24, 2020
Subject: In-State Tuition Rates/Residency determinations requiring 12 months of continuously residing in Ohio

Historically, this agency has consistently held that a student desiring to establish residency in Ohio for in-state tuition purposes must reside in Ohio for twelve consecutive months immediately prior to enrollment without leaving the state for more than a 2-4 week period. After careful evaluation, and in recognition of the various impacts associated with coronavirus (COVID-19), this prior guidance is amended to permit a student to leave the state of Ohio for more than a 2-4 week period and continue establishing residency for in-state tuition purposes for the required twelve consecutive months if both of the following circumstances are met:

1. The student left Ohio due to concerns related to, or in response to, a public health emergency declared by the Governor of Ohio, or order of the Director of Health for the Ohio Department of Health, or national equivalent, or was already out of state during such orders, and returning is not in the interest of the health of the student or family members.
2. The student while not living in Ohio maintains all criteria necessary to establishing residency under the Ohio Administrative Code Rule 3333-1-10.

While not an exhaustive list, the student not physically located in Ohio that is trying to continue establishing residency must comply with all other criteria as if he/she was in Ohio, including, but not limited to, the following: maintain or obtain an Ohio Driver's license (or does not have a driver's license issued by another state); maintain registration or register to vote in Ohio (or is not registered to vote in another state); maintain a permanent address in Ohio (excluding those that are not permitted to return to university student housing); file Ohio taxes (if taxes are filed) as a full time resident of Ohio (not exclude wages earned outside of Ohio claiming to be a non-Ohio resident at the time of earning those wages); is not claimed as a dependent on tax filings by an out of state resident and maintains financial independence.

Questions may be addressed to Michelle Chavanne, General Counsel, at 614.644.1988 or mchavanne@highered.ohio.gov