



## ALSIP, HAZELGREEN AND OAK LAWN SCHOOL DISTRICT 126

**Craig Gwaltney**  
Superintendent

**Steve Gress**  
Assistant Superintendent

11900 South Kostner Avenue  
Alsip, IL 60803-2307  
708-389-1900  
Fax: 708-396-3793  
[www.dist126.org](http://www.dist126.org)

Hazelgreen Elementary  
Lane Elementary  
Stony Creek Elementary  
Prairie Junior High  
District 126 EC Center

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### **Statement Regarding District Residency Verification Practices**

School District 126 is committed to providing a high-quality education to all students who reside within our boundaries, as required by Illinois law. Like all school districts across Illinois, we use established, lawful tools and procedures to verify student residency — a standard legal obligation for all public school districts.

### **About CLEAR and How It Is Used**

Among the tools the district uses is CLEAR, a widely used data platform developed by Thomson Reuters that aggregates a variety of public records and data sources to help verify student residency. These sources may include property records, vehicle information, and license plate recognition data — all used to establish whether a student's stated address reflects their family's actual place of residence. School District 126 is one of approximately 200 Chicago-area school districts that employ this technology as part of their residency review process.

### **Our Verification Process**

CLEAR is one part of a broader, multi-step verification process. Before any enrollment decision is made, district staff conduct a thorough review of physical documentation submitted by families — which may include proof of address, utility records, lease or mortgage agreements, and other verifiable materials. Decisions are made by trained staff through an equitable review process consistent with Illinois law, not by any single data source or automated system.

### **Fiscal Responsibility to Taxpayers**

Ensuring that only eligible students are enrolled is also a matter of fiscal responsibility to our community. School District 126's boundaries directly border other districts, creating circumstances where residency verification is particularly critical to ensuring that enrollment reflects actual district residents. School funding in Illinois is tied directly to enrollment, and taxpayers within District 126 deserve confidence that resources are directed to the students the district is legally obligated to serve. Rigorous residency verification protects that investment.

### **Individual Enrollment Matters**

We respect the privacy of families and students involved in any enrollment matter and are unable to comment on individual cases. Families who have questions about the enrollment process or wish to discuss their specific situation are encouraged to contact our district office directly.

School District 126 remains dedicated to treating all families with dignity and transparency as we fulfill our legal obligations.

**Craig Gwaltney**  
Superintendent

Our mission is to provide all students with a diverse and respectful environment in order to equip them with the skills and mindset to strive for excellence to take on the world.