WESLEYAN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

RDS / NC RESIDENCY

A quick guide for students and families

What is RDS?

North Carolina's Residency Determination Service (RDS) is the centralized process used to determine a student's residency classification for tuition and state financial-aid purposes at North Carolina colleges and universities.

Why students complete it

IN-STATE TUITION

RDS determines whether a student qualifies for the in-state tuition rate at North Carolina public colleges and universities.

STATE-FUNDED FINANCIAL AID

The residency result is also used when considering eligibility for North Carolina state-funded grants and scholarships.

COMPLETE RDS BEFORE APPLICATIONS

Students should complete RDS before submitting North Carolina college applications. Many colleges request the Residency Certification Number during the application process.

A PARENT OR GUARDIAN MAY ASSIST

The student should use the student's own CFNC/RDS account. A parent or legal guardian may need to help provide family information; a separate parent account is not required.

A simple path

1. **Use the student's account**
   Sign in with an existing CFNC/RDS account or create a CFNC account through the official portal.
2. **Ask for family help if needed**
   Have a parent or legal guardian available if the student needs assistance with family information.
3. **Complete RDS before applying**
   Finish the residency determination before submitting North Carolina college applications.
4. **Save the RCN**
   Keep the Residency Certification Number for North Carolina college applications.

OFFICIAL RDS PORTAL

Complete RDS and view the student's status only through the official state portal.

OPEN THE OFFICIAL PORTAL

residencync.cfnc.org

Keep the Residency Certification Number

The RCN is the student's unique residency number and may be requested on college applications. Save it in a secure, accessible place. Wesleyan's webpage does not collect residency or personal information.

Current official sources reviewed September 1, 2026: CFNC Parent & Family FAQs; CFNC RDS Completion; NC Countdown to College.