

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · ARLINGTON

Arlington School Enrollment Guide 2026 (Arlington Public Schools)

The APS Welcome Center, required documents, the strict proof-of-residency rule, free preschool (VPI), and immigrant family rights.

SHORT ANSWER

Every Arlington Public Schools (APS) student is guaranteed a place at the neighborhood school for their home address, and there is no registration deadline. Families who speak a language other than English at home should start at the APS Welcome Center (2110 Washington Blvd., 703-228-8000, option 1) for a language assessment, translated forms, and interpreters. Required documents: a birth certificate (or an affidavit of identity and age), the parent's photo ID, proof of residency (three documents; five documents and two forms if you live in someone else's home), a health form, and immunization records. APS does not ask about immigration status and does not require a Social Security number. For kindergarten, a child must turn 5 by September 30.

Where to register

- Only students new to APS register; every student is guaranteed a space at the school assigned to their home address (find yours with the Boundary Locator).
- If your family speaks a language other than English at home, APS asks you to start at the Welcome Center: language assessment for the student, registration help, translated documents, and interpretation.
- Other ways: online (upload documents and meet an APS registrar virtually) or at your neighborhood school by appointment.

CENTER	ADDRESS · PHONE · HOURS
APS Welcome Center	2110 Washington Blvd., 1st floor, Arlington, VA 22204 · 703-228-8000, option 1 · registration@apsva.us · weekdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (appointment)

Step by step

- 1 Check eligibility: students are ages 5 to 18 on September 30; students with an IEP and English learners may be eligible until age 22.
- 2 Choose where to register (Welcome Center, online, or neighborhood school).
- 3 Gather your documents (checklist below).
- 4 Set up the registration meeting. If you are not the parent (for example, kinship care) or the student is over 18, call 703-228-8000, option 1, before registering.

- 5 Registration for the next school year opens February 1; students already in APS do not need to re-register.

Document checklist

DOCUMENT	NOTES
☐ Birth certificate	The original or a certified copy, translated into English if necessary. If unavailable, an "Affidavit of Student Identity and Age" is accepted.
☐ Parent's photo ID	Any valid government-issued photo ID, driver license, or passport is enough.
☐ Proof of residency (owner or renter)	Three documents: a deed or a current lease signed by both parties, plus two different supporting documents showing the parent's name and address (tax return, pay statement, vehicle registration, a current utility bill, bank statement, insurance policy, and similar).
☐ Proof of residency (living in someone else's home)	Five documents: Residency Form A (parent affidavit), Form B (statement from the Arlington resident), the deed or lease for the property, and two supporting documents. These forms and the lease/deed must be resubmitted every school year (July 1 to the start of school).
☐ Health form and immunization records	Commonwealth of Virginia School Entrance Health Form; immunization records for all new students; a physical exam within the last 12 months for PreK-5.
☐ Extra form for kindergarten	Pre-K Experience Form.

No Social Security number appears on this list. APS asks you to redact SSNs and financial account numbers on documents you submit; it needs only names and addresses.

YOUR RIGHTS AS AN IMMIGRANT FAMILY

- APS states on its own page that it does not ask for a student's immigration status at enrollment and therefore cannot share it with USCIS.
- Code of Virginia § 22.1-287.03 bars a school division from requiring a student's or parent's Social Security number.
- Code of Virginia § 22.1-2.2 bars schools from excluding a child, or requesting immigration documents, based on the actual or perceived immigration status of the child or the parents (except where state or federal law requires documents).
- Required school vaccines are free at school health clinics, and the Arlington County Immunization Clinic (2100 Washington Blvd., by appointment, 703-228-7444) provides required vaccines at no cost. Uninsured or underinsured students may also get a free school-entry physical through county public health: same number.

Age rule

For kindergarten, a child must turn 5 by September 30 (optional in APS; Virginia law requires school attendance by age 6 as of September 30).

Free preschool: the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)

APS's VPI program is free for children who are 4 by September 30. The base rule is household income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level; homelessness, a parent without a high school diploma or GED, or an IEP can also qualify a child. APS encourages families up to 350% of the poverty level to apply under local criteria. Applications are taken only after a phone screening, in person with APS staff: 703-228-8665 (English), or 703-228-8000, option 1, for Spanish. VPI is offered at 12 neighborhood schools and 4 option schools, with priority to the lowest incomes.

Multilingual learners and transportation

Language assessment, translated registration documents, and interpretation are provided through the Welcome Center. K-12 students who live in Arlington ride ART buses and selected Metrobus routes free with an iRide SmarTrip card (available at Commuter Stores or through APS transportation coordinators).

Registration questions: APS Welcome Center, 703-228-8000, option 1.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN ARLINGTON, VA

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Arlington and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English.

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