

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · AUBURN

Enrolling in School in Auburn: Documents, Address and 2026 Guide

The district's own policy says the number request is voluntary. But its residency rule is among the hardest in the series, and reading only one of the two will mislead you.

SHORT ANSWER

This guide has to say **two things in the same breath**, because one calms what a reader fears and the other introduces a strictness they do not expect. **The calming one:** the city school district's own board policy states that **a Social Security number may also be requested, but such request is voluntary and is not a requirement of enrollment.** **The strict one:** the same district's residency rule is among the hardest in this series: **you must live inside the city limits, no waiver and no tuition payment will get a child in, residency is re-proved every year, and a home visit may be required before enrollment.** So in this city the housing decision is also the school decision.

The district's own sentence: the number request is voluntary

In the city school district's board policy on students there is, word for word, this: students **entering the school system for the first time, at any grade level, are not required to present a birth certificate**, though a birth certificate **or other acceptable evidence** may be requested to verify the student's age. And the sentence that follows is the most valuable thing this guide carries:

THE POLICY'S OWN SENTENCE

A Social Security number may also be requested, but such request is voluntary and is not a requirement of enrollment.

The same policy section says three more things, and all three touch this guide's reader:

- **Homeless students, children of migrant workers and immigrant students**, children in foster care and English learners have **equal access to the same free and appropriate public education** provided to other children; the policy adds that this is done **without stigma and without segregation**.
- Enrollment of these students **may not be denied or delayed because of barriers that applicable law expressly prohibits**.
- **The principal may accept alternative forms of evidence** or modify the applicable requirements to accommodate immigrant students, children of migrant workers, students with limited English proficiency and homeless students.

An access and currency note: because the district's own site could not be reached at all in this research, this policy text was read from **an internet archive copy dated February 14, 2025. The text itself is the**

institution's own, but **we make no claim that it is in force today in exactly this form**; confirm with the district before you go to enroll.

And in the same breath: the residency rule

The same policy sets one of the hardest residency rules in this series. **Read only one of the two and you will be misled**: you have the right to decline when a number is requested at the counter, **but if you live one step outside the city your child cannot enroll in this district, and money will not solve it**.

RULE	DETAIL
Inside the city limits is required	The student must live inside the city limits and reside with a parent, a legal guardian or a court-appointed adult guardian
No waiver and no tuition	In the district's own wording, students residing outside the city limits are not accepted for enrollment under any type of waiver or by paying tuition
Proof again every year	Residency is re-proved annually; proof of residency must be in the name of the enrolling adult and within the school district
A home visit is possible	A home visit may be requested before enrollment to verify residency
Power of attorney is narrow	A power of attorney issued under the relevant statute may be used for one year only and is accepted only in extraordinary circumstances at the principal's discretion ; guardianship obtained to evade the residency requirement is not recognized
If it cannot be verified	The principal notifies the parent that enrollment will be terminated ; there is a right to written appeal and to be heard before a panel
If your lease is month to month	A residency affidavit option is published for families without a lease or unable to provide two proofs in their own name

There is one thing to do while house hunting: run the [Census Bureau address lookup](#) and see for yourself whether the address is **inside the city limits**. The service asks for no registration and no key, and it returns the **school district** along with the county. **Do not rely on the agent's or the landlord's word**; getting this item wrong does not get fixed for the length of a lease.

The text in the code and what is in force today: four steps

A reader searching online may come across a statutory section about **verifying the citizenship and immigration status of students at enrollment**. **Before you panic, read four things in this order**:

- 1 The text is in the code and carries no warning.** The state legislature's own server publishes the section in full; the **effective date field is blank**, there is **no repeal note** and **no editor's note**. The server gives **no machine-readable warning at all**.
- 2 A federal court permanently enjoined that provision.** The citation is Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama v. Bentley, Northern District of Alabama, **Doc. 180**, stamped **November 25, 2013**.

- 3 **The statute's own general rule already lists schooling as exempt.** The public benefits section of the same act enumerates services for which verification of lawful presence **is not required**, and **elementary and secondary education stands first on that list.**
- 4 **There is a separate constitutional basis.** The Supreme Court's decision in Plyler v. Doe has been in force since 1982 and applies in Alabama as everywhere else.

THE DATE YOU WILL SEE ONLINE IS WRONG

- **The commonly repeated October 2013 date is wrong;** that is the date of the parties' joint report, not of the order. The correct citation is **Doc. 180, stamped November 25, 2013.**
- **The statute did not freeze in 2013.** Other parts of the same act were **amended twice in 2025**, and widely used legal sites give a **snapshot dated December 30, 2024** for this statute and miss both amendments.
- **The protective subsections inside the enjoined section are part of the enjoined text too.** That section also carries subsections on the confidentiality of student information and on damages for disclosure; **do not read them as live protection.**
- The full text of the order is in the court's stamped filing: courtlistener.com.

Language: there is a right to ask for, and this is the door

- **We have to be honest here: research found no published list** of the languages this district actually translates into or interprets in. **We do not say there are none, we say we did not find one**, and **we do not carry another Alabama district's language answer over to this one.**
- **What we do write is this:** the district's own policy states plainly that **English learners have equal access** and that **the principal may accept alternative evidence.** So at the enrollment counter **you are not obliged to sign a document you do not understand**; ask for an interpreter or a written explanation, **put the request in writing**, and note who you gave it to and when.
- The state health agency publishes its own **free language assistance notice in Turkish** with a telephone number. That agency is not the school, but it runs documents you will need at enrollment: [the notice is on the agency's own page](#).

What to bring to enrollment

DOCUMENT OR TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Proof of residency in the name of the enrolling adult	In your first week open the water, sewer and garbage account and electricity in your own name. The proof must be in the parent's name
☐ Confirm the address is inside the city limits	geocoding.geo.census.gov . No waiver and no tuition enrollment is accepted
☐ Proof of age	A birth certificate is not mandatory but a document verifying age is requested; the principal may accept alternative evidence

DOCUMENT OR TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Immunization record	The state health agency's form, available from the county health department, a family physician or some clinics. Immunization is also named in the statute's list of services that require no verification
☐ Most recent report card and school records, if any	Ask the district in advance whether Turkish documents need translation
☐ Go in knowing the number request is voluntary	The district's own policy sentence is on the second page of this guide. The person at the desk may not know it
☐ Put your interpreter request in writing	No published list of translated languages was found for this district; asking is your right
☐ Put each year's re-proof on the calendar	Residency is re-proved every year and a home visit may be requested

A two-sentence summary: at the enrollment counter **the answer to the number question is in your hands**, because the district's own policy treats the request as voluntary. **The answer to the address question is not in your hands**, because that decision is made when you sign the lease. If you run into an actual problem it stops being a school matter; **speak to your attorney**.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN AUBURN

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