

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · BATON ROUGE

# School Enrollment in Baton Rouge: Zoned Schools and Magnets 2026

The system is hybrid: a zoned school tied to your address on one side, and a separate, competitive magnet application on the other. The priority pool closes December 4, 2026.

## SHORT ANSWER

**The system here is hybrid, and that is unique in this state.** On one side is a classic **zoned school**: your address determines your school. On the other is a separate, **competitive** magnet application that sits **on top of** the zoned system, with its own site, its own portal and its own calendar. **The priority pool runs from October 14, 2026 to December 4, 2026. And we print a conflict:** two pages of the same district give the same date under **two different school-year labels**, so this document prints no school-year label at all. What we print is **the date itself**.

## The two layers

| LAYER                 | HOW IT WORKS                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Zoned school</b>   | Tied to your address. The magnet site confirms this implicitly: for magnet programs it says Attendance zones do not apply, meaning zones do apply at ordinary schools |
| <b>Magnet program</b> | <b>A separate, competitive application</b> with its own site and portal; applications are evaluated by pool                                                           |

## ITEMS WE COULD NOT VERIFY

- **The school district's main site did not open from this network at any point this round.**
- As a result the **name and address of the zone lookup tool, the ordinary enrollment procedure, the complete document list** and the district's **own sentence on immigration status** could not be verified.
- **We do not say they do not exist; we say we could not read them.** Call the district directly and ask for the document list **in writing**.

## The magnet application, step by step

- 1 Choose the program** and review its own entrance requirements; they differ from program to program.
- 2 Complete the online application.**
- 3 Submit it within three days of starting it.** That is the district's own deadline.

- 4 If you did not upload the **two residency documents** (and an affidavit if required), deliver them to **your first-choice school within four days** of submitting.
- 5 **Deliver the signature page** to the first-choice school within the same window.

The program office is at **1050 S. Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806**, phone **225-922-5443**.

## Pools and dates

| POOL          | DATE RANGE                            |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| Priority pool | October 14, 2026 to December 4, 2026  |
| Winter pool   | December 5, 2026 to February 28, 2027 |
| Spring pool   | March 1, 2027 to April 30, 2027       |
| Extended pool | May 1, 2027 to June 30, 2027          |

- The district says the portal **stays open even when no seats remain**, and that applicants who apply **by December 4, 2026** are evaluated first under the board-approved selection process.
- Eligible applicants who apply after that date go into a **waiting pool** if no seats remain.
- **A student in the waiting pool must reapply every year.** It is easy to miss and it costs a school year.

## For a family arriving from abroad

- **If you do not yet have a home in this city:** the district says to submit residency documents for **your current residence**, and after you move, to give **new residency documents** to the magnet coordinator at the school you applied to.
- **A warning in the same answer:** even if a seat is allotted, **enrollment cannot be completed until acceptable residency documents reach the school.**
- **Test equivalency:** for a child arriving from a place without the state test, the district uses the phrase the state equivalent norm-referenced assessment. **That sentence says "state";** what happens for a child arriving from Turkey is **not written**. We leave this item **unverified** and suggest you ask the program office before you apply.
- Prepare **report cards, transcripts, immunization records and birth certificates with sworn translations;** an untranslated document is rejected at most counters.

## Immigration status

**This district's own sentence could not be found**, because its main site could not be read. The nondiscrimination text that is readable lists age, race, religion, national origin, disability and sex; it **does not list immigration status**. **The federal framework, however, is clear and applies statewide:** the authority is *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982). Another school district in this state writes the same framework into its own handbook: Students shall neither be required nor asked to present documentation pertaining to immigration status. **That sentence belongs to that district;** the same sentence **was not found** for this one. We do not say it does not exist.

## Statewide rules

- **Compulsory attendance** runs from age five to the end of the school year in which the student turns 18. Without a diploma a student may stay through the end of the year in which they turn **21**, or **22** with an individualized education program.
- **The age cutoff is September 30.** A child must be five by that date for kindergarten.
- **Kindergarten is a prerequisite for first grade:** a 2021 act made a **full year of kindergarten**, or an **academic readiness screening** by the local school board, a condition of first-grade enrollment. **For a six-year-old arriving from Turkey without a kindergarten record this is a real obstacle;** ask about the screening in advance.
- **Proof of age:** alongside a birth certificate, a **passport** is an accepted age document.
- **Immunization is among the enrollment documents**, but the exemption is very broad: state law accepts a medical reason **or** a **written dissent** from the student or the parent or guardian.

**If you arrive mid-year:** because enrollment here follows your address, your child **can be enrolled at the zoned school mid-year**; the magnet side follows the pool calendar. So **missing the magnet window does not leave a child without a school**. Because the enrollment procedure could not be verified, **call the school directly**.



### TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN BATON ROUGE

#### Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Baton Rouge, in Turkish and English. Free evaluation: [clinchlaw.com/free-evaluation](https://clinchlaw.com/free-evaluation) · +1 866-491-7669

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