

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · BOSTON

Boston School Enrollment Guide 2026 (Boston Public Schools, No SSN Needed)

Online registration, the documents BPS asks for, the two-proofs-of-address rule, the Welcome Centers, language screening and the rights of immigrant families.

SHORT ANSWER

No SSN is required and no immigration document is asked for. Boston Public Schools (BPS) registration happens **online** at apply.avela.org/boston, and a visit to a Welcome Center is **optional**, though help is offered. Neither an SSN nor an immigration paper appears on the document list. You do need two proofs of a Boston address from two different categories. Schools are assigned from your home address, and **all high schools are citywide**. The helpline is 617-635-8873.

Step by step

- 1 **Register online.** Registration for 2026-27 is open and the application runs through apply.avela.org/boston. A registration officer reviews your documents and then emails confirmation. Language screening and special-education reviews are scheduled after you submit. If you want in-person help, call 617-635-9010 for a Welcome Center appointment; the City says registration assistance is offered in ten languages.
- 2 **Gather the documents.** The full list below is required, and **there is no SSN and no immigration document on it**.
- 3 **Keep the address proofs separate.** You need two proofs of a Boston address from two different categories, so two electricity bills will not do.
- 4 **See your school list.** BPS builds a personalized list of schools from your home address. A school that is not on your list is not available to you, and some schools also require a separate special-admission application.
- 5 **Language screening.** If another language is spoken at home, the child is tested at the Newcomers Assessment and Counseling Center (NACC) in the Bolling Building, 2300 Washington Street, Roxbury: 617-635-1565, nacc@bostonpublicschools.org. School choices can be adjusted after the testing.

Document checklist

DOCUMENT	DETAIL
☐ The child's identity	The original birth certificate, Form I-94 or a passport . If you bring a passport, you also complete the BPS Parent Affidavit.

DOCUMENT	DETAIL
☐ Immunization record	An up-to-date record. The rules are the state's; bring an English translation of the card from Türkiye.
☐ Physical exam	A physical examination record from the past year .
☐ Parent ID	A parent or guardian photo ID. Under state guidance, not having a government photo ID cannot block enrollment.
☐ Two proofs of a Boston address, from different categories	A utility bill within 60 days (water and cell phone bills do not count); a deed, a mortgage payment within 60 days or a property tax bill within a year; a W-2 or pay stub; a bank or credit card statement within 60 days; a letter from DOR, DCF, DTA, DYS or Social Security within 60 days; a current lease, a Section 8 agreement, or a BPS Landlord Affidavit issued within the past year
☐ Recommended	A copy of an IEP if there is one, and a transcript for high school

Your rights as an immigrant family

WHAT TO KNOW

- BPS's own immigration guidance says the district **does not and may not ask students or caregivers for information about their immigration status or citizenship** during enrollment.
- The state Attorney General's guidance says districts should not collect for enrollment purposes or keep documents containing passport information, visa information or Social Security numbers. The basis is Plyler v. Doe (1982): every child living in the United States may attend public school regardless of immigration status.
- If a staff member asks about your immigration status, call the BPS Helpline first: **617-635-8873** or helpline@bostonpublicschools.org, weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Then the Attorney General's Civil Rights Division on 617-963-2917.

How schools are assigned

- **Home-based assignment:** the system combines the schools within about a mile of your address with nearby higher-rated schools to build a personalized list. Most families get 10 to 14 options. In BPS's own words the assignment uses an algorithm similar to a lottery, so a place at one of your top choices is not promised.
- **High schools are citywide:** every school in the 7-12 and 9-12 grade span is open across the city, so your address does not narrow your high school options. The exam schools use a separate application and a four-tier address map.
- **Age cut-offs for 2026-27:** the child must turn 3 by September 1, 2026 for K0, 4 for K1 and 5 for K2.
- **Timing:** the January round is when the odds of landing a top choice are highest for K0, K1, K2 and grades 6, 7 and 9. For 2027-28, exam school online registration runs October 13 to December 4, 2026; the general 2027-28 dates are not yet posted and information sessions will be announced in the fall.
- **No written lease:** a landlord affidavit or a shared-tenancy affidavit is accepted and does not need to be notarized. Families who are homeless or doubled up are exempt from the residency proof; the BPS

Homeless Education Resource Network is 617-635-8037.

- **A warning:** families who enroll without actually living in Boston face dismissal and per-diem fines, and there is a tip line, so give your address accurately.
- **Multilingual education:** BPS serves about 19,000 multilingual learners, roughly 30% of enrollment. The Office of Multilingual and Multicultural Education is 617-635-9435, omme@bostonpublicschools.org. The main BPS number is 617-635-9000.

The Welcome Centers

CENTER	ADDRESS · PHONE	LANGUAGES LISTED
Dorchester	1216 Dorchester Ave, Dorchester MA 02125 · 617-635-8015	English, Portuguese, Spanish, Cape Verdean Creole, Vietnamese
East Boston (Umana Academy)	312 Border St, Boston MA 02128 · 617-635-9597	English, Spanish, Portuguese
Roslindale	515 Hyde Park Ave, Boston MA 02131 · 617-635-8040	Cape Verdean Creole, English, French, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Spanish
Roxbury (Bolling Building)	2300 Washington St, Roxbury MA 02119 · 617-635-9010	Cape Verdean Creole, English, Portuguese, Somali, Spanish

Hours are generally Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday noon to 5 p.m. The East Boston center opens Monday and Tuesday 9 to 5, with Wednesday afternoons in January only, and closes on BPS holidays. **None of the four centers lists Turkish**, so ask for an interpreter when you book.

NOTE FOR IMMIGRANTS

Bring an English translation of the immunization card and school records you carry from Türkiye. If the child has not had a physical exam in the past year, book one before you register, because that record is on the required list. Pick your two address proofs from different categories and file them on the day you move in. If you register with a passport, ask for the BPS Parent Affidavit as well. Not having an SSN does not hold up registration.

Registration dates and the document list can change. Confirm them on the [BPS registration page](#) before you go. Information as of October 1, 2026.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN BOSTON

Have a question about your immigration status?

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