

STEP BY STEP GUIDE · BOWLING GREEN

School Enrollment in Bowling Green: Two Districts, One Address Question (2026)

Two school districts operate in this city and your address decides which one you fall into. The city's district charges a student from outside \$500 a year and provides no transportation.

SHORT ANSWER

There is no single answer here, because two school districts operate in this city: the city's **independent** district, **Bowling Green Independent School District**, and the county's, **Warren County Public Schools**. **Your address decides which one you fall into**, and that is **the most expensive consequence** of the city line question. **In numbers:** the city district charges a student from outside the district **\$500 a year** and says in its own words that it **does not provide transportation outside the district boundaries**. Admission is **based on date of application** and capped by **building capacity**. **So when you choose a home, the school fee belongs in the same calculation as the rent.**

Two districts, two doors

ITEM	THE CITY'S INDEPENDENT DISTRICT	THE COUNTY DISTRICT
Who it covers	Addresses inside the city limits	The outer parts of the city and the rest of the county
Students from outside the district	Accepted, but at \$500 a year	A separate form exists for out-of-district and transfer requests
Transportation	Its own sentence: no transportation outside district boundaries	Not measured in this research
Address lookup	No tool found in this research	A school attendance area lookup tool exists
School property tax rate	84.8 cents per \$100	52.2 cents per \$100

A domain warning: the county district's **old web address no longer resolves**. If you come across an old link online, do not use it.

The city's independent district: the \$500 rule and the calendar

- **It does accept them:** the district writes that it **accepts enrollment of non-resident students from surrounding districts and counties**, but that enrollment **may not exceed the school building capacity**.

- **The fee:** the district's own sentence states that **an annual tuition of \$500 will be charged to each nonresident student to offset the local tax assessed to residents**. So the fee stands in for **the local tax residents pay**.
- **No bus:** the district states plainly that it **does not provide transportation outside of the district boundaries** for non-resident students. **For a working parent that is two trips a day** - put it in your budget and your calendar.
- **Order by application date:** new students are admitted **based on date of application**, and the district says it gives priority to those applying **before April 3, 2026**, with non-resident students notified **on or soon after April 13**.
- **The priority order:** current students first, then siblings of current students, then **resident** elementary students requesting a change of school, and last **new non-resident students by date of application**.
- **If you move mid-year:** students who become non-resident mid-year because of a household move or a change in a parent's employment may continue, **but become tuition students and are charged prorated tuition**.

The concrete takeaway: a home that looks cheaper outside the city limits means **\$500 a year plus transportation** for a family that wants the city's schools. **Add both lines when you negotiate rent.**

Required enrollment documents

The city district's own list of what must be on file before a child attends:

- **A legal birth certification.**
- **A Kentucky certificate of immunization.**
- **A preventive health care examination** conducted within **one year** before initial entry into the school program, **and another within one year before entry into sixth grade**.
- **An eye examination** by an optometrist or ophthalmologist, documented on the **Kentucky school eye exam form**.
- **A dental screening or examination**, presented to the school no later than **January 1** of the first year a five or six year old is enrolled.
- **Proof of residency.**

Contact: the district's pupil personnel office - **Clay Stephens, Director of Pupil Personnel, (270) 746-2200**.

And note what is not on the list: a Social Security number. Two other districts in this state write on their own pages that the number is **not an enrollment requirement; we do not carry those sentences here**, but **the city district's own required list contains no number**, and that is a measurement.

A foreign birth certificate: the state rule is flexible, but there is a gap

The statewide rule, as districts write it on their own pages: on first enrollment a student or parent provides **either a certified copy of the birth certificate or other reliable proof of the student's identity and age**, with an **affidavit** if a copy cannot be produced. Another district in this state lists the alternatives **by name**, and the list includes a **valid passport**, an **immigration card** and **prior school records**. **That is not the Bowling Green districts' own list and we do not carry it** - but it shows the state rule is not tied to one document.

THE GAP WE STATE PLAINLY

No district says whether a translation or an apostille is required for a foreign birth certificate. We are not saying it is required, and not saying it is not. Practical advice: bring a **notarized translation** of the birth certificate and, if you can, **an apostille** with you from Turkey. **If it is not needed, no harm; if it is, arranging it from here takes months.**

Immunization records: Kentucky wants its own form

- For a record from another state, one district in this state writes that it can be taken to the **county health department and transcribed onto a Kentucky certificate form**, or that a **local Kentucky physician** can do it.
- **That the same path applies to a record from abroad is an inference - no institution uses the phrase "foreign country immunization record."** **What to do:** bring your Turkish immunization record, **take it to the county health department or a pediatrician and ask for it to be transcribed onto the Kentucky form**, and do it **before school starts**.
- **Exemptions:** the state's official exemption form is a **declination on religious grounds**, published in English and Spanish. **The official wording and form for a medical exemption could not be found in this research**, and no agency statement was found about a philosophical or personal belief exemption. **We are not saying none exists.**
- **For military families** one district's own page allows **thirty days** to comply with the immunization requirement.

The county district's door for international families

The county district's enrollment page carries **a separate heading for international families - so a distinct path is described for a newly arrived foreign family. But the page's content did not open in this research and we do not write what it asks for.** **The physical door, however, is confirmed:** the district records an enrollment center for international families - **GEO Center Enrollment Center, 509 Morgantown Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101, 270.904.4059**. The district's own language figures speak too: its English learner students come from **more than 90 countries** and speak **more than 102 languages and dialects**. **In other words, a foreign family is not an exception in this county - do not hesitate to ask.**

Is immigration status asked? The honest answer

No sentence saying "we do not ask about immigration status" was found for either the city's independent district or the county district in this research. The city district has a non-discrimination statement listing race, color, **national origin**, age, religion, marital status, sex and disability - **but immigration status is not named in that sentence**. Two large districts in this state do have very clear sentences on this; **we do not carry those sentences to the Bowling Green districts.**

But the right to attend is not in question: under the U.S. Constitution and Supreme Court precedent, **every child has the right to attend public school regardless of immigration status - Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202**

(1982). **Go and enroll**; if you are uneasy, ask the district's pupil personnel office **in writing** and keep the answer.

Interpreters, and the question to ask in winter

Another district in this state answers in its own FAQ that **an interpreter is free and that requesting one is your right**, citing federal civil rights law. **No equivalent sentence was found for the Bowling Green districts in this research, and we do not carry it. The action is the same regardless:** request an interpreter **in writing and before the meeting. Be prepared on Turkish:** no Turkish language resource was found at any Kentucky institution reviewed, and Turkish does not appear in districts' top ten language lists.

In winter: Kentucky allows a **non-traditional instruction day** in place of a snow day, counted as an **attendance day**; the commissioner approves up to **ten** a year. **But each district decides for itself, and in this city that question has two addressees. Ask your district in September:** *"does this district use NTI days or traditional snow days?"* The answer determines whether you can get to work in winter and when the school year ends.

THREE SENTENCES FOR THIS SECTION

- **Ask the school question at the same time as the rent question.** There are two districts; the city's charges a student from outside **\$500 a year** and provides **no transportation**.
- **Apply early.** Admission runs **by date of application** and is capped by **building capacity**.
- **Bring the documents ready from Turkey:** the birth certificate with a **notarized translation** and, if possible, an apostille; the **immunization record** (to be transcribed onto the Kentucky form); and proof of the preventive health, eye and dental exams. **No number is required:** the list of mandatory documents contains no Social Security number.

TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN BOWLING GREEN

Do you have a question about your immigration situation?



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