

STEP BY STEP · BRENTWOOD

School Enrollment in Brentwood: Documents and a Zoning Trap 2026

There is no separate city school district; your child will be enrolled in the county district. A passport is expressly accepted as photo identification, but here enrollment is also a zoning fact.

SHORT ANSWER

The reassuring part first: enrollment in school does not depend on immigration status, and the state education department says so **in writing** in its own legal questions and answers document; the document cites Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982) by name and citation. The same document says **the federal privacy act prohibits requiring a Social Security number to enroll a child in school** and that districts **should not turn a student away over a missing document**. In Brentwood there is **no separate city school district**; your child will be enrolled in the **county school district**, and enrollment is based on **the address of the primary residential parent**. **But there is one more detail in this city and it is expensive to miss:** in the zoning ordinance, **being enrolled in school from that address** is one of the five triggers that make a person a **permanent occupant** of the dwelling.

The state rule: what may and may not be asked

By the state education department's document, the records a school district **may** ask for are these: **proof of identity and age** (a certified birth certificate, for example), enrollment and report card copies from the previous school, **immunization records**, and **proof of address**. **But no particular document can be required as proof of address**; the agency writes that it may be shown with various documents such as a utility bill, a tax document or a lease.

- **Another state agency's enrollment procedure text is even plainer:** a school **cannot refuse enrollment because a family cannot produce a Social Security card or number, a health form, a birth certificate or other information**.
- If additional documents are requested, the school must **immediately state that no document will be used in relation to immigration status**.
- **If you have no birth certificate, the school decides** which document counts as proof of birth.
- **Students in foster care and students experiencing homelessness are enrolled immediately and without documents**.

The district's own list

We read the county school district's enrollment page and its new student checklist on **October 12, 2026**. **Neither text mentions a Social Security number, citizenship or immigration status at all**.

DOCUMENT	NOTE
☐ A certified copy of the birth certificate	In this state a birth certificate can be obtained from any of the 95 county health departments ; the address for sending previous school records is also requested
☐ Immunization and physical examination requirements	If you are coming from a public school inside the state, the state immunization certificate or a valid exemption is enough; if you are coming from out of state, a private school or a church school, the original certificate is required at enrollment. The form can be obtained from a private physician or the county health department , number 615-794-1542
☐ Custody document	The district writes that a student cannot continue without a parenting plan or guardianship document; for divorced, separated or unmarried parents a current custody document is required
☐ Proof of address	Districts cannot require a particular document ; a utility bill, a tax document or a lease counts
☐ Online enrollment account	Enrollment runs through the district's own online system with an account; new student enrollment for the following school year opens for all grade levels on March 16

If you are staying with a relative: a separate nine-item list

This is the most critical part for newly arrived families. The district publishes a separate checklist for a parent living with a legal resident of the county. **These conditions are not applied to a student in foster care or experiencing homelessness.**

- 1 A birth certificate or other official birth records.
- 2 Immunization and physical examination requirements.
- 3 **A notarized residency verification affidavit**, signed by both the parent or guardian and **the legal resident of the home.**
- 4 Proof of residence from the legal resident: a copy of a current signed lease, a signed current sales contract, a deed or a current mortgage statement.
- 5 **A utility bill for the legal resident's address:** electric, water, gas, sewer or a connection confirmation, and it **must be from the month immediately before enrollment.**
- 6 The parent's own proof of residence: a checking account, a credit card statement, voter registration, a copy of a pay stub showing name and address, a phone bill or some form of official mail.
- 7 **A second parent proof of residence**, which **cannot be the same type as the first.**
- 8 **Photo identification of the parent or guardian.** The options listed are **a driver license, a passport, a passport card. So a passport is expressly accepted.**
- 9 A current custody document if required.

IN THIS CITY, SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IS ALSO A ZONING FACT

- The city's zoning ordinance uses the concept of a **permanent occupant** instead of **family**, and caps the number of **unrelated** occupants in a dwelling at **one person**.
- **There are five triggers that make someone a permanent occupant:** living there more than twenty-one days in a twelve-month period, registering to vote using the address, **receiving mail at the address**, registering a vehicle or applying for a driver license using the address, and **being enrolled in school, or as a home school student, at that address**.
- **We spell out the consequence:** if you are staying with a relative, **enrolling your child in school from that address** may make you a **permanent occupant** of the dwelling; the same is true of **receiving mail there**. **The quota for an unrelated person is already one**.
- **We do not write this to frighten anyone:** enrolling your child in school is a right and enrollment does not depend on immigration status. What we are saying is this: **read this rule before you arrange school enrollment and housing in the same week**.
- **There is also a named exception:** people displaced from their permanent home by an officially recognized emergency may be housed temporarily **with the city manager's approval**.

Language: what we found and what we did not

Research found no actually translated language or interpreter service on this district's enrollment page or checklist. That does not mean the service does not exist; **it means we found no published record of it**, and **we do not carry another district's language list over here**. What you should do: when you book the enrollment appointment, **ask about an interpreter in a separate sentence** and ask for the answer in writing. **Do not expect Turkish material:** no published Turkish material was found anywhere in this state's institutions.

Enrollment is open, a scholarship is governed by a separate act

Combining these two in one sentence would be wrong.

SUBJECT	STATUS
School enrollment	No enrollment statute based on immigration status was enacted. The state education department's own answer is no , and it cites the constitutional authority by name and citation
School scholarship	A separate regime. The state's scholarship act says the application of a student who cannot establish lawful presence is denied and treats the scholarship as a public benefit ; so the verification and reporting chain that took effect in 2026 attaches to the scholarship application

The practical result: enrolling your child in school and applying to a scholarship program are **not the same door**. **Talk to your attorney** before applying for a scholarship; enrollment carries no such need.

AN EMPLOYER NOTE, BECAUSE IT MATTERS IN THIS COUNTY

- School districts count as **public employers**, and electronic work authorization verification has been **mandatory for public employers with no employee-count threshold since July 1, 2026**.
- In this place the same definition covers **the city, the county and the countywide school district** at once; there is no separate city school district.
- **If you are applying for a job with the school district this step will certainly be applied.** Sort out any mismatch between the name and date of birth on your documents before you apply.

Five questions to ask when you call the district

- 1 Which school is assigned to this address?
- 2 I have no lease in my own name; besides the notarized residency verification affidavit, what should I bring?
- 3 How do I match the immunization certificate with the records I brought from Türkiye?
- 4 Where do I send a request for a Turkish interpreter for the enrollment meeting?
- 5 Where can I have the school physical done and what is the deadline?



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN BRENTWOOD

Have a question about your immigration status?

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

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