

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · BUFFALO

Buffalo School Enrollment Guide 2026 (Buffalo Public Schools)

Enrollment steps at Central Registration, documents, the school districts around Tonawanda, and rights for immigrant families.

SHORT ANSWER

Buffalo Public Schools enrollment is in person only, at Central Registration, 33 Ash Street (716-816-3717). You bring proof of the child's age (a certified birth certificate, and some other documents including a consulate ID, are accepted), a parent photo ID, two proofs of address, a report card and immunization records. New York State rules bar schools from asking for a Social Security number or a family's immigration status. The Tonawanda area has different school districts, so check which one your address belongs to first.

Step by step (Buffalo Public Schools)

- 1 Enrollment in Buffalo is in person and at one place: Central Registration Office, 33 Ash Street, Buffalo, NY 14204, 716-816-3717. The district's pages list slightly different hours (weekdays, morning until about 4 p.m., arrive before 2:30 p.m.); call before you go.
- 2 Pick up the Registration Packet and application at the office or download them from the BPS website.
- 3 Gather the documents in the checklist below and submit the packet with them in person.
- 4 If a language other than English is spoken at home, contact Multilingual Placement for the language assessment: 716-816-3547.
- 5 If your housing is temporary or uncertain, your child can still enroll under McKinney-Vento: 716-816-3717, ext. 3. If you do not have the documents, BPS says to contact them and they will assist you.

Document checklist

DOCUMENT	NOTES
☐ Child's proof of age (1)	A certified birth certificate or baptism record. If unobtainable, other documents at least 2 years old are accepted: driver's license, government ID, school photo ID with date of birth, consulate identification card, hospital or health records, and similar.
☐ Proof of guardianship (1)	A birth certificate listing the parents' names, an I-94 with the immigration family page, a court order, or a tax form listing the child as a dependent. Non-parents need guardianship or custody papers, or a parental affidavit.

DOCUMENT	NOTES
☐ Parent/guardian photo ID (1)	New York license/permit/non-driver ID, Erie County DSS benefit card, employee ID and similar.
☐ Proof of address (2, in the parent/guardian name)	New York license/ID, a residential utility bill or pay stub from the last 30 days, a signed lease, a bank statement from the last 30 days, a voter registration card, vehicle registration and similar.
☐ Report card / transcript	Latest report card (grades 1-8) or transcript (grades 9-12).
☐ Immunization record and physical	Immunization record and a physical exam done within the last year.
☐ Social Security card	Not required. Schools cannot ask for it; New York State rules bar requests for an SSN or immigration status.

Around Tonawanda: different school districts

Outside the City of Buffalo, school districts are run separately. Check which district your address belongs to first.

DISTRICT	ENROLLMENT
Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda UFSD (Ken-Ton)	Online (Infinite Campus) or by appointment at 44 Westfall Drive, Tonawanda, NY 14150 · 716-871-2090 · ktufsd.org/registration
Tonawanda City School District	District Registrar, 600 Fletcher Street, Tonawanda, NY 14150 · 716-213-4606 · tonawandacsd.org/page/registration
Buffalo Public Schools	33 Ash Street, Buffalo, NY 14204 · 716-816-3717 · buffaloschools.org

Amherst, Cheektowaga, Williamsville, West Seneca and other Erie County districts are not covered here; check their own websites.

Immunization and health rules

TOPIC	RULE
Immunization record	Due within 14 days of the first day of school; 30 days for refugee and out-of-state students.
Physical exam	Due to the school within 30 days of starting.
Where to get shots	Erie County Department of Health, 608 William Street, Buffalo: 716-858-7687 (call first; most clinics need appointments).
Compulsory attendance	Starts at 6 and runs through 16.

YOUR RIGHTS AS AN IMMIGRANT FAMILY

- Under Plyler v. Doe (1982), every child may attend public school regardless of immigration status. In New York, everyone aged 5 to 21 has the right to a free public education.
- New York State rules bar schools from requesting a Social Security card or number, or any information that would reveal a family's immigration status, at enrollment.
- Missing documents cannot delay enrollment; families get 3 days to provide proof of residency after enrolling.
- Students in temporary housing must be enrolled immediately, even without immunization records; the first dose is due within 14 days.
- Bring an English translation of your child's Turkish vaccine record (an e-Nabız printout); having a U.S. doctor review it helps avoid delays.

Where to get help

OFFICE	CONTACT
Buffalo Public Schools Central Registration	716-816-3717
Language assessment (Multilingual Placement)	716-816-3547
Transportation	716-816-4895
Special education	716-816-4746
Erie County Department of Health (immunization clinics)	716-858-7687



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN BUFFALO

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Buffalo and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English. Free evaluation: clinchlaw.com/free-evaluation · +1 866-491-7669
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