

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · CLIFTON

Clifton School Enrollment Guide 2026 (Clifton Public Schools)

Enrollment steps from Pre-K to high school, documents, free preschool, the Turkish bilingual program and immigrant family rights.

SHORT ANSWER

New Clifton Public Schools students enroll at the Clifton Welcome Center (745 Clifton Avenue, 973-458-6709) or through online pre-registration. A birth certificate or passport, immunization records, a current physical, school transfer records and up to 3 proof-of-residency documents are enough. An SSN is not required, and the district may not ask about immigration status. For kindergarten, a child must be 5 on or before October 1. Clifton's School 13 runs a Turkish bilingual program.

Step by step

- 1 The fastest way is online pre-registration at fridayparentportal.com/clifton/preregistration.
- 2 Or register in person at the Clifton Welcome Center, 745 Clifton Avenue, Clifton, NJ 07013, (973) 458-6709. During the school year, hours are Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (walk-ins until 3:00 p.m.); summer hours are 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- 3 After the online submission, an automated email asks you to upload documents; you can upload them, email a registration representative, or drop them off at the Welcome Center.
- 4 For a Pre-K application, do not go to the Welcome Center; instead, book an appointment directly with the preschool registrar, Ashley Gaccione, at (973) 458-6709 or asgaccione@cliftonschools.net.

Document checklist

DOCUMENT	NOTES
☐ Child's birth certificate or passport	Original document, showing a birth date on or before October 1.
☐ Immunization record	Original document showing the physician's name and address.
☐ Current physical	Universal Child Health Record Form, stamped by a U.S. physician within the last 365 days.
☐ School transfer records	A report card, transcript, or a state or district transfer card.
☐ Proof of residency (up to 3 documents)	A lease, deed, tax bill, utility bill, a notarized letter from a landlord, or a bank statement, among others; submit no more than three.

No Social Security number appears on this list. Documents in another language must be translated into English.

Registration representatives (by last name)

LEVEL	REPRESENTATIVE	CONTACT
A-K (K-12)	Nancy Foster	nfoster@cliftonschoools.net
L-Z (K-12)	Noelia Aviles	naviles@cliftonschoools.net
Pre-K 3 / Pre-K 4	Ashley Gaccione	asgaccione@cliftonschoools.net · (973) 458-6709

General registration line: (973) 458-6709. District office: Clifton Public Schools, 745 Clifton Avenue, (973) 470-2300.

Age rules and free preschool (CELA)

- Kindergarten: the child must turn 5 on or before October 1.
- Clifton Early Learner Academy (CELA): free full-day preschool for every child who lives in Clifton and turns 3 or 4 by October 1, 2026, first-come-first-served upon completing registration. Three campuses: CELA Brighton (290 Brighton Road, 973-470-2060), CELA Allwood (39 Allwood Road, 973-778-0305), CELA Speer (37 Speer Avenue, 973-561-4047).
- A separate, free preschool program exists for children ages 3-5 with special needs: Special Services Department, (973) 470-2286.

Bilingual education and English support

Clifton Public Schools serves more than 1,400 multilingual learners across 50-plus home languages. Elementary-level bilingual programs run in Spanish (Schools 12, 13, 17), Ukrainian (School 12), **Turkish (School 13)** and Arabic (School 14). District-wide ESL support covers other languages. Multilingual learners take the WIDA ACCESS test every February, with an exit score of 4.5 out of 6.0.

Contacts: Alicja Banning (K-8 Bilingual/ESL Supervisor), (973) 470-2267, abanning@cliftonschoools.net · Yuri Diaz (9-12 ESL Supervisor), (973) 779-5294.

YOUR RIGHTS AS AN IMMIGRANT FAMILY

- New Jersey regulation (N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.4) bars school districts from requiring or requesting an SSN or immigration or citizenship information as a condition of enrollment.
- A missing document category cannot be used to deny enrollment, as long as another form of proof is offered.
- Homeless or temporarily housed families (McKinney-Vento) can enroll immediately without standard documents: contact Jessica Tremble, (973) 470-5697.

If you live in Paterson

Paterson Public Schools serves more than 9,000 multilingual learners across 30-plus languages and runs a dedicated Newcomers High School for students who are new to the United States with limited English.

Central Registration: 90 Delaware Ave, Paterson, NJ 07503, (973) 321-2501.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN CLIFTON, NJ

Have a question about your immigration status?

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

Office: 321 N Central Expy, Ste 206, McKinney, TX 75070

Attorney responsible for this guide: Asim Clinch, Esq., Clinch Law Firm P.C. Attorney Asim Clinch is a member of the Missouri Bar (No. 76084) and practices U.S. federal immigration law.

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