

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · COLORADO

Enrolling a Child in School in Colorado: Documents and Languages 2026

No statewide document list was found, so the list below is one district's. Proof of address, the immunization file, the absence of automatic assignment, and the Turkish question.

SHORT ANSWER

First an honest limit: **the research found no statewide Colorado enrollment document list**. What it found was the Denver district's own list, so read this guide that way; if you are moving to another district the list may differ. The documents asked for are **proof of address, an immunization record or an approved exemption, proof of the student's age** for a mid-year enrollment, and **transcripts** for grades 9 to 12. **A Social Security number is not on the list**, but no written district statement confirming that was found either. And a structural surprise: **Denver does not assign you to a neighborhood school automatically**; a city-wide choice system runs instead.

THIS GUIDE IS WRITTEN FROM ONE DISTRICT'S LIST

- **The research found no statewide Colorado enrollment document list**. The list below belongs to **Denver Public Schools**, and we keep that caveat in plain sight here.
- **Outside Denver districts differ**. The rule that holds in Colorado too is this: **district boundaries do not have to match city limits**. A street can fall into a different district on the other side, so find out which district your address sits in **before you sign a lease**.
- The district's enrollment pages could not be read in full and the list was assembled from search summaries within the official domain. **Confirm it from the district's live page before you set out**.

The documents asked for

DOCUMENT	DETAIL
Proof of address	A current utility bill showing the service address, a valid lease, a deed, a current mortgage statement, or a property tax notice. If the document is not in the parent's name a letter from the landlord is requested
Immunization record	Requested at enrollment: documentation of immunization status or an exemption , on the certificate of immunization or alternative certificate issued and approved by the state health and environment department
Proof of the student's age	Requested for a mid-year enrollment
Transcripts	Requested for grades 9 to 12

DOCUMENT	DETAIL
Social Security number	Not listed as a required document on any enrollment page found. But no written district statement saying enrollment cannot be refused for lack of a number was found either

One thing should be said at the start: your child's right to attend public school is a federal right and does not depend on immigration status; that is the floor in every state we have covered. **But the research found no Colorado or Denver statement confirming it in writing**, so rather than relying on whatever the district tells you at the counter, we recommend **asking for the answer in writing**. If you hit an obstacle at enrollment, write to us.

If you are asked for a Social Security number

Here we apply our own rule and say so plainly. In some states we have covered, the education department had a written statement that **a child cannot be turned away from enrollment for lack of a Social Security number. No such statement from Colorado or from the Denver district was found in the research.** So we neither say it is not required nor say it is; we say **it is not on the list and no written statement was found**. At the enrollment appointment, ask plainly whether the number is mandatory and **ask them to confirm the answer by e-mail**; a written answer in your hand is worth more than any sentence this guide can offer.

There is no automatic assignment to a neighborhood school

This is the most important structural fact for a newly arrived family, and in the Denver example it is clear. The district runs a **city-wide school choice system** called **SchoolChoice**, with a **first round** and a **second round** of applications, a separate kindergarten enrollment, waitlists, admission priorities, and published boundary schools and enrollment zones. **There is a separate route for a family arriving mid-year:** families outside the first-round window go through **Current-Year Enrollment** rather than the lottery. **We print no dates in this guide**, because they change every year and the research could not verify this round's dates; but **missing the first round narrows the list of schools your child can attend**, so if you know your moving date, check the application windows today. The central office is **1860 Lincoln Street, Denver, CO 80203**, phone **720-423-3200**.

The languages the district counts, and Turkish

We write this as it is, because it has a direct consequence for a Turkish family. In an announcement dated **August 21, 2024**, the district named the **eight languages** most commonly spoken by its families: **Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese, Amharic, French, Somali, Nepali and Dari** (labeled Persian on the district website). The same announcement notes that Chinese is no longer among those eight. **Turkish is not on the list**, and no district page found mentions Turkish as a bilingual program, a translation language or a dual-language option. **So this guide promises no Turkish support.**

But we also write down what is usable: the same announcement says translation and interpretation are provided **for every language, listed or not**, by contacting the school. The district also reports more than 30,000 multilingual students and more than 200 languages, and says it runs **19 dual-language or immersion schools** (paired with Spanish, Mandarin and French); that second set of figures was read indirectly. **The practical sentence is this: ask the school for an interpreter, and make the request in writing.** Say in

advance that you want a Turkish interpreter for the enrollment meeting; there is no enrolled Turkish program, so this has to go in as a service request.

Immunization: an exemption exists, but its procedure is unclear

Proof of immunization is requested at enrollment and **an exemption is accepted**: the documentation has to be on the **certificate of immunization or alternative certificate** issued and approved by the state health and environment department. **The research did not find the details of how the exemption is obtained, where it is documented, or whether an education session is required**, so we set out no procedure here. In some states we have covered the exemption is documented only at the county health department and only after an education session; **we could not verify that for Colorado**. Ask both your district and your county health department before the school year begins, because an incomplete immunization file delays enrollment.

- 1 Pin down the address.** Find out which district you are in before you sign a lease; district boundaries do not match city limits.
- 2 Get the proof of address ready.** A lease or a utility bill showing the service address; know in advance that if the document is not in your name they will ask for **a letter from the landlord**.
- 3 Have the immunization file translated.** Prepare an English rendering of the immunization card you bring from Türkiye and ask the district which certificate format it needs.
- 4 Prepare proof of age.** A mid-year enrollment asks for a document showing the child's age; **whether a Turkish birth certificate needs a translation or an apostille is published nowhere**, so ask the district. If an apostille is needed you can handle it inside Colorado.
- 5 Get the transcripts before you leave Türkiye.** For a high-school-age child, ask the school there for transcripts and course descriptions; obtaining them after you arrive is far harder.
- 6 Submit the interpreter request in writing** and send it before the enrollment meeting.
- 7 Check the application calendar.** Where a choice system runs, missing the first-round window narrows your options.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN COLORADO

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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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