

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · COVINGTON

School Enrollment in Covington: One District, Walk-in Registration, 2026

One district, three schools, and the most valuable small town finding of this round: a registration option inside the district's own building, with a computer provided.

SHORT ANSWER

The district is the **Covington Community School Corporation** and it has three schools: **Covington Elementary School, Covington Middle School and Covington High School**. That makes this the simplest answer to the school question among the five settlements: **not a county with eleven districts, but a single district**. Enrollment runs entirely online through a student information system, **and here sits the most valuable small town finding of this round: the district offers walk-in registration**. In the district's own words it is for anyone who needs help or needs access to a computer; **a computer is provided and school staff are present if assistance is needed**. The number question is answered statewide and in writing: **not having a Social Security card, an address document or a birth certificate, not speaking English and being undocumented are not grounds for refusing enrollment**.

The mechanics: where it starts and where it ends

- **Enrollment is online.** The district asks for a computer or mobile device with a browser and a family account. **For a household with no internet at home the barrier starts right there**, and the district's answer is the next line.
- **Walk-in registration exists and is named.** The district's own sentence is that it is for anyone needing help or needing access to a computer; **a computer is provided and school staff are present if assistance is needed**. For a Turkish speaking family the hardest part is usually the form itself, so **ask for this option by name and bring someone who can interpret**. We did not find it in the other districts examined this round.
- **New students call the school's main office for an appointment.** So you start online and then go to the building.
- **There is a separate pre-registration for pre-kindergarten** and a separate **nonresident transfer application** for families living outside the district. That is the question to ask when you rent: **is the address inside the district boundary**. If it is outside you need transfer approval first, and that takes time.
- **The district site also carries** a page for students without stable housing and a mental wellness page; food service is a separate department. The existence of those pages tells you who to talk to when you need help.

What happens if you have no documents: the state answers in writing

This is one of the most important answers in this guide, and the source is the state rather than the district. The memorandum sent to principals by the state attendance officer at the state education department lists one by one the grounds on which enrollment cannot be refused, and says this: **state law does not require any document with an address as a prerequisite to enrollment**. The school **may ask** for documents to determine legal settlement or the right to attend, but **if the parent does not have documents, a child cannot be denied attendance for that reason alone**.

GROUND	WHAT THE MEMORANDUM SAYS
No rental receipts, mortgage document, driver license, Social Security card or lease	The law requires no document carrying an address as a prerequisite to enrollment. A school may ask for documents to determine legal settlement, but if the parent cannot produce them the child cannot be refused for that reason alone
Being undocumented, not being a citizen	If the child intends to remain in Indiana at least thirty days , enrollment must be immediate, without regard to legal domicile ; the memorandum cites a 1982 Supreme Court decision
Not speaking English	Written down the same way, resting on another Supreme Court decision
No birth certificate	A school may ask for a certified copy or other reliable proof of date of birth; if it is not produced within thirty days the school notifies the state clearinghouse for missing children. That notification is routine, not an accusation , and the child is not removed from the roll
No stable housing, moving during the year, living with a relative, arriving late in the term	All on the memorandum's list of grounds that cannot be used. Where a student lives with a relative and the parent's signature cannot be obtained, a third-party custodial agreement completed by the caregiver may be accepted

THE ONE REAL LIMIT IS IMMUNIZATION, AND ENROLLMENT IS NOT ATTENDANCE

- The memorandum's own sentence is that children must be enrolled in school **whether or not they have the required immunizations**.
- But if they do not and the school declines to grant the **twenty day waiver** allowed by statute, the child **may not attend beyond the first day of school**.
- So **enrollment must happen in every case, attendance need not**, and the two are not the same thing. You can complete the enrollment and close the immunization gap in parallel.
- **Here that parallel errand means a car trip**, because there is no hospital inside the county and no sliding fee health center could be found in this county either. **Try to book the immunization appointment on the day you enroll**, rather than leaving it for later.
- **Bring your child's immunization record from Türkiye** and have it translated into English if you can.

When proof of residence is asked for, you can produce it yourself

The memorandum says documents cannot be required, but a school **may ask**, and most families would rather hand something over than argue. There is a lever here that works in your favor and it is specific to this city: **electricity, water and sewer come on the city's own bill**, and opening the account in your own name puts a document in your hand bearing your name and address. **Make that call in your first week**; the same bill also helps at the licensing counter and for a library card, so one telephone call opens three doors. Remember too that no number is required: the state education authority says so in writing in the memorandum it sent to principals.

We record a conflict as it stands

One school district in this state states in its enrollment letter that the education department requires all districts to collect proof of Indiana residency, and imposes an age limit on the documents. **That is the opposite of what the state memorandum says.** We are not picking a side, but we do state the hierarchy: **the memorandum is the higher authority and a written instruction sent to schools.** Our practical advice is clear: **take whatever documents you can, but do not postpone enrollment because something is missing.** If you are refused, mention that you can take the matter to the department's attendance officer; the memorandum was written for exactly these situations.

LANGUAGE SUPPORT: THE SURVEY, AND THE THIRTY DAY CLOCK

- The mechanism is the same statewide: a **home language survey** is completed once at enrollment and kept in the student's file.
- If a language other than English is indicated, the student is given a placement screener and English learner status is determined **within thirty calendar days**.
- If you move to another school inside Indiana the survey travels with the student; if it cannot be found, the receiving school must document **at least three attempts** to retrieve it before administering a new one.
- **Leaving Turkish off the survey deprives your child of support.** That may be the single most useful sentence in this guide.
- **We could not verify the scope of the district's own English support program, its staffing, or the languages represented in the district**, so we write nothing about them. Ask about it by name at the enrollment appointment and ask **in writing** when your child will be assessed.
- **In a small district that question is easier to ask than in a large one:** you are talking to a school, not a call center.

An honest gap

We could not verify the district's required document list, its immunization requirement, whether it asks for a Social Security number, or the scope of its English language support. We are not saying these do not exist; the research could not read them from the district's own pages this round. So this guide gives you no document list. **Ask all four at the enrollment appointment** and note the answers with their date. The

structural answer is confirmed, though: school districts are **legally separate units** from the municipality or township they sit in, so a question you put to the city produces no answer for the school.

One extra gain through the school: a free library card

In this town, school enrollment carries a side benefit that connects to the library and is easily missed. The library district is not the same line as the city boundary; it is made up of **Troy** and **Van Buren** townships. **But public school students who live outside the district** and attend this district or the other school corporation in the county receive a **free student card**, and the library cites the statute it rests on. So even if your address falls outside the library district, **your child qualifies**. Teachers and teaching assistants who work at schools in the district but live outside it also receive a free educator card, although that card reaches only this library's own material. **Stop by the library in the week you enroll.**

- 1 Find out first whether the address is inside the district boundary**, if possible before you sign the lease. If it is outside, a transfer application is required.
- 2 Pack the bag:** the child's passport, the birth certificate and its translation if you have them, the immunization record, a utility bill in your name and the lease, and any custody order. **Things will be missing, and that is normal.**
- 3 If you have no computer or internet at home, ask for walk-in registration by name;** the district publishes it and provides a computer.
- 4 Complete the enrollment and close the gaps afterwards.** Enrollment must happen in every case; the limit on attendance is immunization.
- 5 Write Turkish on the home language survey.** Language support flows from that survey and status is determined within thirty calendar days.
- 6 Ask for an interpreter at enrollment and in writing**, and put the four open questions to the same appointment: document list, immunization, number, and English support.
- 7 Get the library card in the same week.** Even if you live outside the district, the student card is free.



TRKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN COVINGTON

Have a question about your immigration status?

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