

STEP BY STEP GUIDE · ELIZABETHTOWN

School Enrollment in Elizabethtown: Two Districts, One Address Question (2026)

Two separate public school districts run here and your address decides which one you fall into. Enrollment is residence based, a passport is explicitly accepted and the Social Security card is not required.

SHORT ANSWER

Here the whole answer turns on one thing: which side of the city limit your address is on.

Kentucky allows cities to establish **independent school districts**, and one exists here. **So this city runs two separate public school districts:** the city's **Elizabethtown Independent Schools** and the county's **Hardin County Schools**. **And the enrollment logic follows the usual story in this series:** it is **residence based**, a registration rather than an application. **The good news for a Turkish family is in the city district's own sentence:** "Other documents as proof of age and legal name are also acceptable (such as a passport, legal documents, etc.)" - a passport is explicitly accepted. **A second piece of good news:** on the same district's document list the Social Security card is marked "(optional)"; the number is not an enrollment requirement. **If you live outside the district a separate application and approval are required, and whether a fee is charged for that application could not be verified.**

Two districts, and which one you fall into

DISTRICT	WHO IT COVERS	SCHOOLS
Elizabethtown Independent Schools	The city's district	Elizabethtown High School, TK Stone Middle School, Helmwood Heights Elementary, Morningside Elementary, Panther Academy, Valley View Education Center
Hardin County Schools	The county's district; it serves the part of the county outside the city and communities such as Radcliff and Vine Grove	More than twenty schools
A third possibility	A separate school system tied to the military installation also appears in the area	That system's own pages were not read in this round and which addresses it covers could not be verified

THIS DISTINCTION COSTS MONEY

- **On the property tax school line:** Elizabethtown Independent **85.7 cents**, Hardin County **65.2 cents** - so a home inside the city limit falls into a markedly higher school tax.
- **When you look at homes, ask two questions together:** *which school district is this address in?* and *is this address inside the city limit?*
- **And the city limit is not fixed:** the city annexes, and its 2026 ordinance list contains the annexation of at least two separate addresses. **Use the city's own map application, not an old list.**
- **Look line by line:** on vehicle tax the relationship reverses and the independent district comes out slightly cheaper. **"The independent district is more expensive on every line" is wrong.**

The city district's own document list

In Elizabethtown Independent's own words, the documents required for all students: **"KY Immunization Certificate · State Certified Birth Certificate · Social Security Card (optional) · Preventative Health Care Exam (INCOMING KINDERGARTNERS) · Dental Screening for Initial Entry Students (6YRS OLD & UNDER) · Eye Exam for Initial Entry Students (6YRS & UNDER)"**

Two lines on this list are critical for a Turkish family, and both favor you:

- **A passport in place of a birth certificate.** The district's own sentence: **"As proof of age and legal name, please submit to the school of enrollment your child's state certified birth certificate... Other documents as proof of age and legal name are also acceptable (such as a passport, legal documents, etc.)"** A Turkish birth certificate is not an obstacle on its own.
- **The Social Security card is not required.** The district's own parenthesis says **"(optional)"** and it also states the reason: for **grades 9 through 12** the number is needed to access **a state scholarship program** and it is **kept confidential**. The county district says the same: the number is not collected at this age and is needed **before high school, for the scholarship**.

The statewide rule points the same way: the county district's own page states the law as requiring, at first enrollment, either **a certified birth certificate** or **"other reliable proof of the student's identity and age"** plus an affidavit explaining the inability to produce the certificate. **So the document is not tied to one country.**

But we write out one gap: no district says anything about whether a translation or an apostille is required for a foreign birth certificate. We do not say it is not required - it was not found. **Call the school before your enrollment appointment and ask.**

Health documents and their calendar

DOCUMENT	WHEN
Kentucky Certificate of Immunization	On file within two weeks of enrollment
Preventive Health Care Exam	Performed within the year before first entry and before entering grade 6
Eye exam	At first entry between ages 3 and 6, by January 1

DOCUMENT	WHEN
Dental screening	At ages 5 to 6, by January 1

For an out-of-state immunization record the city district has its own solution: "If enrolling from out-of-state, the out-of-state certificate can be taken to the Hardin County Health Department... for transcription onto a KY certificate form. This can also be completed by your local Kentucky physician." The county district adds a warning: an out-of-state immunization record must be **that state's own certificate**; a **"records of administration"** printout does not count as that child's certificate.

For an immunization record from Turkey, an inference that we label: the same logic should work for a foreign document, meaning **the county health department or a local physician** transcribes it onto the Kentucky form. **But no agency uses the phrase "foreign country immunization record";** this is our inference. **Bring your immunization record from Turkey complete** and call the county health department in your first week.

Exemptions: Kentucky's official exemption form is a **religious declaration** and the state publishes it in English and Spanish. **The official wording and form for a medical exemption were not found in this research;** no agency statement on a philosophical or personal belief exemption was found either. **We do not say they do not exist.**

Age cutoff, nonresident enrollment and military families

- **The kindergarten age cutoff**, in the county district's own words: **"Must be 5 years of age on or before August 1 of the given school year."**
- **If you live outside the district** the city district's sentence is clear: **"For students that do not live in the district, please complete the non-resident application. Once you have received approval, then you will be able to complete registration."** Application and approval first, then enrollment.
- **Fee: no statement was found on whether the city district charges a nonresident student.** Another Kentucky city's independent district measured in this round charges an annual fee and provides no transportation - **but that is a separate district and we do not carry that figure here. Ask the district directly.**
- **The county district also has its own nonresident enrollment page.**
- **One flexibility:** the county district writes that a **Kentucky Private Provider Certificate** can be accepted provided it carries all the required information.
- **An exception for military families:** the county district's sentence is **"Military families have 30 days to comply as indicated in the Interstate Commission Compact."** - **30 days instead of two weeks** for the immunization record. **One inference to label:** the provision is written for the county as a whole, not specifically for this area.

IMMIGRATION STATUS: THE HONEST ANSWER

- **Two large Kentucky districts measured this round state in their own words that they do not ask about immigration status. But no such sentence was found for the two districts here and we do not carry other districts' sentences over.**
- **That does not mean status is asked.** Neither district's enrollment document list contains **any item about citizenship or immigration status**, and neither treats **the Social Security card as mandatory**.
- **What we write is this: no agency sentence saying "immigration status is not asked" was found.**
- **A concrete step for the reader:** at the enrollment appointment, **ask by phone in advance which documents are required and if a document that is not on the list is requested, ask which rule it rests on.** If you are unsure, talk to your attorney.

Interpreters, and what happens when school closes in winter

Only one Kentucky district measured this round has its own sentence saying an interpreter may be requested free of charge, and that district is not one of the two here. **So we do not carry that sentence over. But the federal framework helps you:** agencies receiving federal funding must provide interpretation **at no cost to the individual**. **What to do:** request an interpreter **in writing** and name your language **before** the enrollment appointment. **No Turkish language material was found at any Kentucky agency scanned**, so have your own interpreter ready if needed.

In Kentucky a **remote instruction day** can replace a snow day, and **each district makes its own decision**. **Because there are two districts here, ask your own district:** *"Does this district use NTI days or traditional snow days?"* The answer decides whether you can get to work in winter.

- 1 **Look your address up on the city's map application first.** The city limit changes both your school and your school tax rate, and the city annexes.
- 2 **Establish which district you fall into** and book the enrollment appointment with that district.
- 3 **Bring the passport.** It is explicitly accepted in place of a birth certificate.
- 4 **Do not worry about the Social Security card:** the district's own parenthesis says **"(optional)"**; the number is needed only in the high school years for a scholarship program.
- 5 **Bring your immunization record from Turkey complete** and take it to the county health department or a local physician for transcription. **That the same route works for a foreign record is our inference** - ask before the appointment.
- 6 **Ask by phone whether a translation or apostille is required.** No district addresses this.
- 7 **Set the calendar for four health documents:** immunization within two weeks of enrollment, eye and dental by January 1. **Military families have 30 days for the immunization record.**
- 8 **If you live outside the district, application and approval come first** - and **always ask whether a fee is charged.**
- 9 **Ask your district the remote instruction day question.** Your winter work plan depends on it.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN ELIZABETHTOWN

Have a question about your immigration status?

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