

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · EVANSTON

Enrolling a Child in School in Evanston: District 65 and ETHS, 2026 Guide

Two districts, enrollment by appointment, the one A plus two B rule, the 60-day freshness requirement, language support and the rights of immigrant families.

SHORT ANSWER

Evanston has two school districts: Evanston/Skokie District 65 for PreK through 8 and Evanston Township High School District 202 for grades 9 to 12. The district does not change with your address, so there is no puzzle to solve. Both ask for the same set of documents: one category A document plus two category B documents, all dated within 60 days, and the child's birth certificate. None of the registration pages or residency forms we read asks for an SSN or about immigration status.

1. Where do you register?

DISTRICT	GRADES	REGISTRATION OFFICE AND PHONE
Evanston/Skokie District 65	PreK-8	Joseph E. Hill Education Center, 1500 McDaniel Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201 · (847) 859-8065 · all registrations are by appointment, weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except Wednesdays · Saturday and evening appointments in busy periods
District 202 (ETHS)	9-12	1600 Dodge Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201 · the Registrar and the Residency Office share Room S127 · registration (847) 424-7180, residency (847) 424-7182, new families (847) 424-7915

District 65 registration starts with an online form and is completed when the registration team approves it; in the district's own words **school starts 2 to 3 business days after registration is finalized**, so book the appointment in the week you move. Registration for 2026-27 is open and new attendance boundaries take effect in 2026-27, so do not pick a school from the old boundary map. To start kindergarten a child must have turned 5 on or before September 1. On the ETHS side, approval comes by email once the documents are reviewed; the high school serves all of Evanston and part of Skokie, and returning students re-verify residency every year.

2. Proof of residency: one A plus two B

The two lists are almost identical and the rule is clear: documents must belong to the parent or caregiver, show their name and address, be **dated within 60 days**, and carry a business name or logo. The two B documents have to come from different sources, and documents the district itself issued are not accepted.

CATEGORY	ACCEPTED
A (one)	A mortgage or property tax document; a current lease signed by the landlord (ETHS also wants the lease to be in force on the first day of school); a deed less than 2 years old; the district's residency verification form if you are neither owner nor tenant; a housing assistance or military housing letter
B (two, from different sources)	A credit card, bank or hospital statement; a gas, electric, water and sewer, cable or landline bill (ETHS does not accept a cell phone bill); vehicle registration; an unexpired driver's license or state ID; a postal change of address confirmation; a pay stub; a public aid card, Medicaid card or food assistance card; a city sticker receipt; other institutional mail in your name

3. Document checklist

DOCUMENT	NOTE
☐ One category A document	A signed lease is the most common. ETHS wants the lease to be in force on the first day of school, so the landlord's signature is essential.
☐ Two category B documents	From different sources and dated within 60 days. Keep the first ComEd, Nicor or city water bill that arrives after you move.
☐ The child's birth certificate	District 65 asks for a copy and the registration team verifies the original in person; there is a Missing Birth Certificate Affidavit for families who do not have one. ETHS asks you to upload it, with a certified English translation where needed.
☐ Immunization record and physical exam	Current records are required.
☐ Transfer papers	If you come from another Illinois public school; plus any court orders and an IEP or 504 plan.
☐ SSN card	None of the registration pages or residency forms we read asks for one, and none asks about immigration status. But neither district writes the sentence "no SSN is required" either, so your backing is state law.

4. A real convenience for a child born in town

Birth certificates registered in Evanston are issued by the city's own City Clerk: 909 Davis Street, second floor, weekdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 847-448-4311. The first copy is \$15 and each additional one \$4. That is rare in this series, because it means you can get the birth certificate the school asks for without going to the county. Registering a new birth takes 1 to 3 weeks after the hospital confirms it, so going to the counter the day after the birth will not work. For a record registered outside Evanston you go to the Cook County Clerk, with Skokie as the nearest counter.

5. Take the residency declaration seriously

- Since 2025-26 District 65 can ask for additional documents or open a residency investigation.

- **A false residency declaration is a Class C misdemeanor** and tuition can be billed. Give the address where you actually live.
- Families without a fixed address have McKinney-Vento support: 847-859-8092.
- If you think you are on the ETHS boundary you can check the Cook County property tax portal or ask the Residency Office directly.

6. English support, and Turkish

District 65 says more than 80 languages are spoken in its student community. Illinois requires a home language survey at every new registration, and if a language other than English is marked the registration department itself books an English proficiency screener; a student found eligible receives English learner services and takes the ACCESS test each year. The screener comes after registration; it is not a precondition for it. The bilingual programs are in Spanish: two-way Spanish-English immersion at Dawes, Dewey, Foster, Oakton and Washington. **There is no Turkish program**, and it is worth saying plainly: a Turkish-speaking child normally receives English language development support. We could not examine the ETHS English learner program in this research; the high school provides in-person help and interpreters on registration days.

7. Phone numbers

SUBJECT	OFFICE AND PHONE
District 65 registration	Joseph E. Hill Education Center, 1500 McDaniel Ave. · (847) 859-8065 · by appointment, except Wednesdays
District 65, families without a fixed address	847-859-8092 (McKinney-Vento)
ETHS registration and residency	1600 Dodge Ave., Room S127 · registration (847) 424-7180 · residency (847) 424-7182 · new families (847) 424-7915
The city's 311 line	3-1-1 inside the city, 847-448-4311 from outside · weekdays 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. · immigration resources too
Birth certificates (city)	Evanston City Clerk, 909 Davis Street, second floor · weekdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. · 847-448-4311

YOUR RIGHTS AS AN IMMIGRANT FAMILY

- Under Plyler v. Doe (1982) every child living in the United States may attend public school regardless of their own or their family's immigration status. Illinois wrote that into its own law through Public Act 104-0288, effective January 1, 2026.
- The Illinois State Board of Education guidance of August 2026 says districts may not ask about immigration status. If an official insists on an SSN or an immigration document, show them [that guidance](#).
- ETHS publishes an Immigration Resources page for families: a family emergency plan template, a know-your-rights guide, and links to the state immigration information center and to free or low-cost legal services. That is unusual for a high school and it is useful: if your child is at ETHS, filling in that template takes half an hour.
- The document list requires everything to be dated within 60 days, so keep the first bill that arrives after you move and the lease signed by your landlord. Have certified English translations of the Turkish birth certificate and school reports made from the start.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN EVANSTON

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Evanston and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English.

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