

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · FAIRFAX

Fairfax School Enrollment Guide 2026 (Fairfax County Public Schools)

Welcome Center registration, required documents, free preschool (VPI), and immigrant family rights.

SHORT ANSWER

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) enrolls most families directly at their local zoned school; families arriving from an international school, whose Home Language Survey shows a language other than English, register instead at the closest Student Registration Welcome Center. Required documents: a birth certificate (or an affidavit plus a supporting record), proof of residency, the parent's photo ID, immunization records, and, for first-time PreK or kindergarten entrants, a physical exam completed in the last 12 months. No Social Security number is required at any step. For kindergarten, a child must turn 5 by September 30.

Where to register

- If your family is arriving from an international school and your Home Language Survey shows a language other than English, register at your closest Student Registration Welcome Center.
- Every other family, including local transfers and English-only households, registers directly at their zoned school.

CENTER	ADDRESS	PHONE
Dunn Loring Center (serves central Fairfax County)	2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, VA 22027	703-204-6740
Herndon Center (serves northwest Fairfax County)	455 Springpark Place, Suite 200, Herndon, VA 20170	703-227-2210
South County Student Registration Welcome Center	6520 Diana Lane, Alexandria, VA 22310	703-742-4900

All three centers are open weekdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Step by step

- 1 Determine eligibility: your child must live with a parent who resides in Fairfax County.
- 2 Determine where to register (table above).
- 3 Gather your documents (checklist below).

- 4 Fill out the form: online, or the paper "Student Registration Form IT-19," also available in Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Urdu, and Vietnamese.
- 5 Book an appointment. The student and at least one parent must attend in person.

Document checklist

DOCUMENT	NOTES
☐ Birth certificate	The original document; if unavailable, an affidavit plus a supporting record (a baptismal record, hospital record, or passport) is accepted.
☐ Proof of residency	If you own or rent: a Residency Attestation plus one of a deed, a signed lease, or a letter from the rental office. If you live with someone else: the Attestation plus three supporting documents (a pay stub, a driver's license/vehicle registration/insurance, a utility bill, a tax document, a bank statement, and similar).
☐ Parent's photo ID	Only the parent named on the child's birth certificate can enroll the student (separate rules apply for nonparents).
☐ Immunization records	Required under FCPS Regulation 2101 and the Code of Virginia.
☐ Physical exam	For first-time PreK, kindergarten, or elementary entrants, completed within the last 12 months by a U.S.-licensed physician or nurse practitioner.

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

YOUR RIGHTS AS AN IMMIGRANT FAMILY

- Code of Virginia § 22.1-287.03 bars FCPS from requiring a student's or parent's Social Security number.
- Code of Virginia § 22.1-2.2 bars schools from excluding a child, or requesting immigration documents, based on the actual or perceived immigration status of the child or the parents (except where state or federal law requires documents).
- A family without insurance registering at the Dunn Loring Welcome Center can, through a referral from the FCPS registrar, get a free physical exam for their child at the Mason and Partners Clinic (MAPs), a joint FCPS/George Mason University clinic in the same building (2334 Gallows Road): call 703-204-6740.

Age rule

For kindergarten, a child must turn 5 by September 30. In FCPS's own words, it is not able to make exceptions; this age cutoff is set directly by Virginia law.

Free preschool: the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)

Fairfax County's Office for Children offers free preschool to 3- and 4-year-olds from lower-income households (at or below 350% of the Federal Poverty Level) at more than 30 locations across the county. Some groups, such as children with an IEP, children experiencing homelessness and children in foster care, qualify regardless of income. Contact: NCSVPI@fairfaxcounty.gov, 703-324-8100, Pennino Building, 12011 Government Center Parkway, Suite 920, Fairfax, VA 22035.

Multilingual learners

FCPS uses the WIDA screener to identify English-language needs and supports students through a division-wide Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP). Family-support resources include Family Literacy, Immigrant Family Reunification, and parent information phone lines.

General registration questions: 703-204-6769. Nonparent registrations: nonparentregistrations@fcps.edu.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN FAIRFAX, VA

Have a question about your immigration status?

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

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