

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · HEFLIN

School Enrollment in Heflin: Documents, Language and 2026 Guide

The district belongs to the county but its headquarters is in town, so you are not driving to another city. On interpreters the agency's own word is if possible, and we leave it alone.

SHORT ANSWER

The structure is different in this town: **the town has no school district of its own, the district belongs to the county. But its headquarters is here:** the district office is at **141 Davenport Drive, Heflin, AL 36264**, telephone **256-463-5624**. So you do not drive to another city for school business, and in a small settlement that is a real convenience. **On language, let us be honest:** the district's English learner plan **names no language at all** and says that an interpreter will be provided **if possible** at enrollment. **We leave the words if possible exactly as they are.** And about the provision you will find online: **the status verification provision for school enrollment was permanently enjoined, but the text still sits in the code.**

The district belongs to the county, the center is in town

Alabama has both **city** and **county** school systems, and two separate districts can exist inside the same county. **In this town the answer is single:** the schools belong to the county system and the system's **central office is inside town**. An elementary school, a middle school, a high school and a **career technical school** carry the county's name.

ITEM	INFORMATION
District central office	141 Davenport Drive, Heflin, AL 36264 · 256-463-5624
Who runs the district	The county school system. The town has no district of its own
Where enrollment runs from	The district's enrollment and attendance unit , and there is an online enrollment system
Enrollment document list	Could not be read. The relevant document is published as a scanned image carrying no text

Language support: the agency's own sentence, with its hedge

- **Home language survey:** if a parent writes a **language other than English** in answer to any question on the survey, that is enough for the student to be flagged as a **potential English learner**.
- **Timelines:** a flagged student is evaluated **within ten school days of enrollment** and the committee meets **within ten school days**. Exit from the program is tied to a specific test score.

- **And the most important sentence in this section, in the agency's own words:** if students or parents need an interpreter at enrollment, an interpreter will be provided **if possible**.
- **We do not strengthen that sentence. If possible** is the agency's own wording and we leave it as it is. **No language is named anywhere in the plan**, and Turkish is not named either.
- **The honest advice:** plan to bring your own interpreter, and call the district before enrollment to ask **whether an interpreter can be provided that day**. In a small district this is a capacity problem, not a bad-faith problem; **but the result for you is the same**.

The document list could not be read, so we give questions rather than answers

The district's own enrollment document list is published as **a scanned image carrying no text** and could not be read in this research. **So we do two things not at all:** we do not hand you a document list, and **we do not carry another Alabama district's answers over to this one**. Both document lists and number policies vary from district to district in this state.

QUESTION	WHY IT MATTERS
☐ Which documents do you require for enrollment, and may I have the list in writing?	There is no verified list for this district
☐ Which document do you accept as proof of residence?	In this town having an address at all is a process of its own, and the residence test works differently in other services
☐ Do you ask for a Social Security number, and if so is it required for enrollment?	Another district's policy in the same state states in writing that such a request is voluntary and not a condition of enrollment. That is not verified for this district
☐ Can a Turkish interpreter be provided on enrollment day?	The plan's word is if possible . Make the request in writing , and note who you gave it to and when
☐ I am staying at a relative's home; is there a separate declaration for that?	Several Alabama districts have a separate procedure for this situation

Attendance: a three-day window

The district's own rule is clear and a newly arrived parent does not know it: after the **tenth absence** in a school year, a doctor's note, a legal excuse or a death-in-the-family excuse must reach the school **within three days of the day the student returns**. In addition, in **grades 7 through 12** a student who misses more than half of a class period counts as absent, while from **kindergarten through grade 6** it is more than half the day. **The practical result:** when your child is ill, do not keep the note in your pocket; the window is short and the clock starts **the day the child returns to school**.

You will find a provision online about status verification

The text you see is real, but it is not what applies today. Read these four things in this order.

- 1 **The text sits in the code with no warning attached.** On the state legislature's own server, the section about verifying the citizenship and immigration status of students at enrollment is published **in full**: the **effective date field is empty**, there is **no repeal note** and **no editor's note**. The server gives no machine-readable warning at all, and that is precisely the root of the trap.
- 2 **A federal court permanently enjoined that provision.** The ruling is *Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama v. Bentley*, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama, **Doc. 180**, stamped **November 25, 2013**.
- 3 **The statute's own general rule already lists school among the exemptions.** The public benefits section of the same statute lists the services for which verification of lawful presence is not required, and it puts **elementary and secondary education** first on the list.
- 4 **There is a separate constitutional basis.** The Supreme Court's decision in *Plyler v. Doe* has been in force since 1982 and applies in Alabama too.

THE DATE YOU WILL SEE ONLINE IS WRONG, AND TWO MORE WARNINGS

- **The commonly repeated date of October 2013 is wrong;** that is the date of the parties' joint report, not of the ruling. The correct citation is **Doc. 180, stamped November 25, 2013**. We mention that date only **to say it is wrong**.
- **The protective subsections inside the enjoined provision are not live protections.** That section also contains subsections on the confidentiality of student information and on damages for disclosure; **they are part of the enjoined text too**, so do not read them as live protection.
- **A list of defendants is not a list of places where the ruling does not apply.** The force of the ruling comes from the finding of unconstitutionality and it operates statewide.
- **The statute did not freeze in 2013.** Other parts of the same statute were **amended twice in 2025**, and widely used legal sites give a **snapshot dated December 30, 2024** for it and miss both amendments.
- If you run into a concrete problem, **talk to your attorney**.

Immunization record and the order before enrollment

- For the **immunization record** the counterpart is not the school but the health side: the record can be obtained from the **county health department**, from a family physician or from some clinics. In this town that desk is at **90 Brockford Rd, Heflin**, telephone **256-463-2296**.
- And this item is good news for the reader: the statute's list of services that require no verification **names immunization explicitly**.
- **Your order before enrollment is this:** first **make sure your address exists**, then prepare your proof of residence, then call the district and settle the document list and the interpreter question. **Do not leave it to enrollment day**.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN HEFLIN

Have a question about your immigration status?

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