

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · HENDERSONVILLE

School Enrollment in Hendersonville: Documents and the Notarized Affidavit 2026

There is one school district here and it is the county district. The district explicitly accepts a passport as parent photo identification, and there is a notarized affidavit route for a family staying with relatives.

SHORT ANSWER

First the reassuring part: **enrollment does not depend on immigration status**, and the state education department says so **in writing** in its own legal questions and answers document. There is one school district here and it is the **county district**; no separate city school district was found, so **the question of which district you fall into does not arise**. On the district's own enrollment page, **a passport is explicitly accepted as parent photo identification**, and there is a defined route for a family staying with relatives: **a notarized affidavit of residence**. **But let us draw one line up front: enrollment is open, the school scholarship is not.**

The state's own written answer

In the state education department's **back-to-school legal questions and answers** document, the question is asked outright: may schools or local education agencies refuse to enroll undocumented immigrant children? **The answer is one word: no.** The document gives its reason and names the case and its citation: **Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982)**. The same answer says enrollment may not be refused because of the actual or perceived citizenship or immigration status of the student or the parent or guardian, and it adds that **enrollment practices that discourage participation in school** on the basis of immigration status may violate federal civil rights law.

- **Federal privacy law prohibits requiring a Social Security number to enroll a child in school.** That is the state education department's own written sentence.
- **Districts may not require a specific document as proof of address**, and the same document says districts **should not simply turn a student away over a missing document**.
- **Another state agency's text is even plainer:** if a school asks for additional documents it must **immediately declare that no document will be used in relation to immigration status**. **Go in knowing that sentence;** if you hit a problem at the counter, that is what you rely on.

The district's own list: what is required

The school district is **Sumner County Schools**, central address **695 East Main Street, Gallatin, TN 37066**, phone **(615) 451-5200**; hours are Monday through Thursday **8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** and Friday **8 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

DOCUMENT	NOTE
☐ Parent or guardian photo identification	Driver license, state identification card, passport or passport card . For a newly arrived family that is a direct door, and it is written on the page
☐ Certified birth certificate	The district's own sentence is plain: the copy the hospital gives the mother is not accepted . In this state a birth certificate can be obtained from any of the 95 county health departments
☐ The state's own immunization certificate	Required for kindergarten, seventh grade and every student new to a school in this state . Immunizations given outside the state must be transferred onto the state's own form; handle it weeks before enrollment
☐ Physical examination	Required for kindergarten and for students moving from another state
☐ Student health information form	Completed and brought to enrollment. The form exists in English and Spanish versions
☐ Two proofs of residence	Accepted: a signed lease with the student's name on it; a mortgage statement (which needs two utility bills alongside it); an electric, water, gas or cable television bill
☐ Not accepted	A cell phone bill, a bank statement, a credit card statement and handwritten agreements . This list is written and it matters
☐ If there is a parenting plan	The person who must enroll the student in the zoned school is the primary residential parent

And we state one gap plainly: a Social Security number is never mentioned on the district's enrollment page. That is good news for a reader without a number; **but go in knowing the federal rule above in case you are asked at the counter**.

If you are staying with relatives: the notarized affidavit

This is where newly arrived families most often get stuck, and the district has **a written procedure** for it. If the custodial parent or the parent living with the child is **neither the tenant nor the owner**, the district asks for **a notarized affidavit of residence**.

- 1 Prepare the affidavit together with the relative who owns or rents the home.** Both signatures are required.
- 2 Line up the notary and your relative on the same day.** The affidavit is signed before the notary.
- 3 Bring a utility bill for that address as well.** Proof of residence may be asked alongside the affidavit.
- 4 Call before your appointment** and ask whether the district has its own affidavit form on hand.

Language: the honest answer

Here we have to lower expectations. The district's enrollment page **mentions no interpreter service**, and **the only document actually translated is the Spanish version of the student health information form**. **There is no Turkish**. It is the same statewide: this research **found no Turkish material at any state agency**. The translation menu on the state's own site is **machine translation**, not the agency's own Turkish text; **we do not present that as Turkish service being available**. **What to do**: bring a **relative who speaks English** to the enrollment appointment and **ask on the phone** whether you can request an interpreter. **We do not say there is none; we say research did not find one**.

Enrollment and the school scholarship are SEPARATE things

We do not merge these into one sentence, because merging them makes the sentence wrong.

SUBJECT	STATUS
Enrollment	No enrollment statute based on immigration status was enacted . The state education department's own answer is no , and it names the constitutional basis
School scholarship	A separate regime . Under the state's education freedom scholarship statute, a student who cannot establish lawful presence is denied the scholarship , and the statute treats the scholarship as a public benefit , which ties the verification and reporting chain to the scholarship application

One sentence of instruction: enroll your child in school, **but talk to your attorney before you apply for a scholarship**. Enrollment calls for no such step.

Which school do I fall into

The district's address-based school lookup tool **was not separately measured this round**, so we give no tool address. **What to do**: before you rent, call the district's central number and ask **which school the address is zoned to**. **In this state, choosing a home and choosing a school are the same decision**.

TWO LEGAL NOTES

- **The enrollment door and the scholarship door are separate**. No status document is required for enrollment; a scholarship application carries **a lawful presence requirement and a reporting chain**.
- **The public employer side is a separate item**: this district is one of the larger employers in this settlement, and **public employers have been required since July 1, 2026 to use the federal employment verification system with no employee-count threshold**. So if you apply for a job here, **verification will certainly be applied**. In the private sector the threshold is **thirty-five full-time equivalent employees under the same employer number**.
- **Consult your attorney before applying for a scholarship or any public benefit**.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN HENDERSONVILLE

Have a question about your immigration status?

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