

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · HOUSTON

Houston School Enrollment Guide 2026 (Houston ISD)

Enrollment steps from Pre-K to high school, documents, age rules, vaccines and rights for immigrant families.

SHORT ANSWER

New Houston ISD students enroll online at houstonisd.org/EnrollmentNow. A birth certificate or passport, a parent ID, proof of address, proof of grade (a report card) and immunization records are enough. An SSN is not required; without one, HISD assigns a PEIMS student number. Schools may not ask about the student's or parent's immigration status. For kindergarten, the child must be 5 on or before September 1.

Step by step

- 1 Find your district.** Your address decides it, not the "Houston" in your mailing address. Katy, Fort Bend and Cy-Fair have their own districts. Check by address: [TEA district locator](#).
- 2 Find your zoned school.** Every HISD student has a zoned school based on the home address and may enroll there at any time of year. Look it up in [School Navigator](#). Some campuses closed or merged for 2026-27, so do not rely on old information.
- 3 Complete Online Enrollment** at houstonisd.org/EnrollmentNow, using the new student pathway. The 2026-27 school year started on August 10, 2026; enrollment stays open during the year.
- 4 Upload your documents.** Missing records do not block enrollment: you have 30 days, or 90 days for a child born outside the U.S.
- 5 Language survey and English test.** If another language is spoken at home (Home Language Survey), the child takes LAS Links or PreLAS, and the LPAC committee places the child in ESL or bilingual classes with parent approval.
- 6 Want a school other than your zoned school?** Apply for magnet and other schools through [School Choice](#), accept the seat, then complete Online Enrollment.

Document checklist

DOCUMENT	NOTES
☐ Child's birth certificate or passport	For a child born outside the U.S., you have 90 days to provide a certified birth certificate.
☐ Parent ID	Driver's license, Texas ID or passport.

DOCUMENT	NOTES
☐ Proof of address	Lease or current utility bill. Living with relatives or friends? Use an affidavit of residence.
☐ Proof of grade	Report card or transcript (with English translation).
☐ Immunization record	Signed by a doctor or clinic, with month, day and year.
☐ Social Security card	Optional. Without it, HISD assigns a PEIMS student number.

Age rules

LEVEL	RULE
Pre-K (HISD 2026-27)	Age 3 or 4 on or before September 1, living inside HISD. Free if the child meets state eligibility; otherwise \$7,419 (one payment or 9 payments of \$824, September to May)
Kindergarten	Age 5 on or before September 1
Compulsory attendance	Starts at 6. A child enrolled in Pre-K or kindergarten must attend while enrolled

A child who speaks a language other than English at home may qualify for free Pre-K through a language assessment (Home Language Survey + PreLAS). Turkish-speaking families should ask their first-choice school for it.

Required vaccines (K-12)

- DTaP / DT / Td / Tdap: 5 doses (4 if the 4th was on or after age 4)
- Polio: 4 doses (3 if the 3rd was on or after age 4)
- MMR: 2 · Hepatitis B: 3 · Varicella: 2 · Hepatitis A: 2
- 7th grade: Tdap booster and 1 dose of meningococcal vaccine (on or after age 11)
- Provisional enrollment is possible if at least one dose of each vaccine has been given; reviewed every 30 days

Where to get help

OFFICE	ADDRESS AND CONTACT
HISD enrollment help	enroll@houstonisd.org · or your zoned school
HISD central office	4400 West 18th St, Houston 77092 · 713-556-6000
School Choice	713-556-6734 · schoolchoice@houstonisd.org
Multilingual Programs (ESL and bilingual)	713-556-6961 · Multilingual@houstonisd.org

OFFICE	ADDRESS AND CONTACT
HISD Health Services (immunizations)	713-349-7423
Las Americas Newcomer School (grades 6-8, new to the U.S.)	6501 Bellaire Blvd, Houston 77074 · (713) 773-5300
Liberty High School	For newly arrived young immigrants aged 15 to 25, day and night classes

Neighboring districts use their own online registration: [Katy ISD](#), [Fort Bend ISD](#), [Cy-Fair ISD](#).

YOUR RIGHTS AS AN IMMIGRANT FAMILY

- Under Plyler v. Doe (1982), every child living in the district may attend public school regardless of immigration status.
- Schools may not ask about your or your child's immigration status.
- An SSN cannot be required for enrollment. The school may request it; a student who does not have one, or does not provide it, gets an alternative student ID number. If a school checklist says "SSN card required", ask for the PEIMS number instead.
- Missing documents do not block enrollment; you are given time to provide them.
- Have foreign vaccine records translated and reviewed by a U.S. doctor to avoid delays.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN HOUSTON

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Houston and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English.
Free evaluation: clinchlaw.com/free-evaluation · +1 866-491-7669
Office: 321 N Central Expy, Ste 206, McKinney, TX 75070

Attorney responsible for this guide: Asim Clinch, Esq., Clinch Law Firm P.C. Attorney Asim Clinch is a member of the Missouri Bar (No. 76084) and practices U.S. federal immigration law.

Attorney advertising. This guide is general information only. It is not legal advice and is not a substitute for the advice of an attorney. Information compiled from official sources as of September 25, 2026; fees and procedures change, so check the official site before you act. Reading this guide does not create an attorney-client relationship. The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements. Latest version: clinchlaw.com/houston-immigration-attorney