

STEP BY STEP GUIDE · JEFFERSONTOWN

School Enrollment in Jeffersontown: An Application, Not a Registration (2026)

The city is a separate municipality but not a separate school district. And the district runs "managed choice": the usual "go to your neighborhood school and enroll" story does not hold here.

SHORT ANSWER

Two things have to be corrected at once here. First: Jeffersontown is a separate municipality but **not a separate school district**. Kentucky allows cities to establish **independent school districts**, and in two Kentucky cities measured this round those districts exist; **in Jeffersontown none was established**. The schools here belong to the countywide **Jefferson County Public Schools**, and **Jeffersontown High School is listed as a JCPS high school on the district's own site map**. **Second, and more important:** enrollment in that district does not follow the usual story in this series. The district's own sentence: **"JCPS offers a managed choice system... The system lets you apply to various schools based on your home address."** Your home address determines **which schools you may apply to**, not which school you will attend - and **a newly arrived family has to apply**.

A separate municipality is not a separate school district

This city has its own police force, its own zoning code, its own revenue department, its own alcohol licensing unit and its own property tax bill. **Schools are not on that list, and that is not a gap but a structural choice**. In Kentucky the split happens when a city establishes an **independent school district**. That has happened in two Kentucky cities measured this round, with heavy consequences: there the city and the county run **two separate school systems**, the independent districts' property tax rates sit well above the county's, and one city district charges **a \$500 annual tuition to students from outside the city** and provides no bus service. **None of that applies in Jeffersontown:** your school district is a single countywide one, and the county sheriff's property tax table carries **a single school line**. **For a newly arrived family that is good news**.

One limit, stated honestly: the research **could not obtain a sentence from the city's own page saying schools are not its business** (the city site did not respond at the time); the conclusion was confirmed **from the JCPS site map**. **And there is an exception inside the county:** Jefferson County contains a separate district called **Anchorage Independent School District** (through middle school). **That item was read only from secondary sources**.

Who has to apply

In the district's own words, **you must apply if:**

- Your child is starting **kindergarten**
- **You are new to JCPS** (the district's phrasing: **"You are new to JCPS"**)

- **You have moved**
- You are interested in an **optional program, magnet program, magnet school** or an **Academies of Louisville** school in your network

You do not need to apply if your child is continuing at last year's school **and you have not moved**, or if your child is moving up to **middle or high school** and you want them to attend the school assigned to your home address (the district's term is "**resides school**"). **For a family newly arrived from Turkey the answer is clear: you are on the first list. One detail to label:** the district's "no application needed" exception is written **only for middle and high school**; the text **does not state plainly** that an application is mandatory for elementary school - that is a conclusion drawn from reading. Our practical advice does not change: **apply**.

The calendar

WHAT	WHEN
2027-28 application period (elementary, middle, high)	November 2, 2026 to December 18, 2026
How applications are processed	Not first-come, first-served. Applications are processed all at once at the end of the period
Families moving mid-year	The district's Relocation Services unit and the Office of School Choice - (502) 485-6250

Something concrete to do: if you are moving to Kentucky in October, write **November 2** in your calendar in the middle of the moving rush. Applying early earns you no priority, **but you must apply before the window closes**. If you miss it, your child will not be left without a school, but your range of choices narrows and you go through mid-year placement.

Immigration status: the district's own sentences

- **"All students are guaranteed the right to attend school. Every child has the right to an education, regardless of immigration status, as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and upheld by the Supreme Court."**
- **"Jefferson County Public Schools protects student privacy. JCPS does not ask about or disclose immigration status."** The district adds that the federal education records privacy law prevents schools from sharing student records, including information about immigration status.
- **"JCPS will not take any action that might discourage students from enrolling and participating in school, or that might lead to the exclusion of students, based on immigration status."**
- **"Jefferson County Public Schools is a Safe Haven School District."** The district writes that the board of education made that declaration **by a resolution in 2017**.

The case law behind that right is **Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982)**. **And one fact should be written in full:** another large Kentucky district writes on its own page that the federal homeland security agency **withdrew its earlier guidance treating schools as protected areas on January 21, 2025**, and that this means immigration enforcement activity on or near school property is **no longer categorically prohibited**. **JCPS's**

own separate sentence on this was not read in this research and we do not carry another district's policy over; but **the change in federal guidance is the same fact for every district.**

A FAMILY SAFETY PLAN: IT TAKES ONE AFTERNOON

- Keep emergency contact information **up to date.**
- **Designate a trusted adult** for care and tell the school.
- Keep **the birth certificate, passport, identity documents and a medication list** together in one place.

Documents: the state rule is not closed to foreign records

First a limit: the JCPS enrollment document list could not be read in this research and we do not carry another district's list over. **Ask the district for the document list before you book an enrollment appointment. But the statewide framework was read and it is good news for a Turkish family:** the statute requires a student enrolling for the first time to present **a certified copy of a birth certificate or other reliable proof of the student's identity and age;** if a birth certificate cannot be produced, an affidavit to that effect is attached. **So the document is not tied to a single country.**

Another large Kentucky district lists those alternatives **by name:** adoption records; a **valid passport** or other federal government identification; a military ID or an **immigration card**; a valid Kentucky license or permit; **previous school records**; or a written statement that the document will be produced **within 30 days.** **Labeled inference:** a child born in Turkey would fall into that list with a **passport** or **school records from Turkey.** **But no district states that "a Turkish birth certificate is accepted", and no district writes whether a translation or an apostille is required.** Ask that question plainly when you book.

Health documents: four items, all required on file

DOCUMENT	WHEN
Kentucky Certificate of Immunization	On file within two weeks of enrollment
Preventive Health Care Exam	Performed within one year before first entry to school and before entry to grade 6
Eye examination (optometrist or ophthalmologist)	At first entry between ages 3 and 6, by January 1
Dental screening or examination	At ages 5 to 6, by January 1

There is a procedure for an out-of-state immunization record: one Kentucky district writes that an out-of-state record may be taken to the **county health department** and **transferred onto the Kentucky form**, and that **a local Kentucky physician** can do the same. **We make an inference here and label it:** the same logic would be expected for an immunization record brought from Turkey, **but no agency uses the phrase "foreign country immunization record."** Get an **English copy** of your child's immunization record before you leave Turkey. On **exemptions**, Kentucky's official form takes the shape of a **religious belief declaration; the official wording and form for a medical exemption could not be found in this research** - we do not say there is none. **An exception for military families:** 30 days instead of two weeks for the immunization record.

Language support, and one gap

JCPS has an **Office of Multilingual Learners** and publishes its own figures: **20 percent of all JCPS students** are multilingual learners, students are recorded as born in **147 countries** and speak **154 languages**. The office runs a **Welcome Center - the lower level of Hazelwood Elementary, 1325 Bluegrass Avenue, Louisville** - offering identification, enrollment help, language services and instructional support. **Families in Jeffersontown belong to this office too**, because the district is countywide. **But we write the gap plainly**: no sentence of the district's own saying **"interpreters are free"** or **"you have the right to request an interpreter"** could be found in this research. **Put your request for a Turkish interpreter in writing** when you book: **Turkish does not appear on the top ten language lists published by Kentucky school districts**.

A winter question: NTI day or snow day?

In Kentucky a **non-traditional instruction (NTI) day** may be used instead of a snow day, and **each district decides for itself**. **Because Jeffersontown has no school district of its own, you will ask the countywide district**. The answer determines whether you can get to work in winter and whether the school year ends in May or June.

THE TWO SENTENCES OF THIS SECTION

- **Jeffersontown has no school district of its own**: the city limit does not change the school question, and compared with two other Kentucky cities this round that works in your favor.
- **Enrollment here is an application**. If you have just arrived from Turkey you fall under the district's **"You are new to JCPS"** item. **The 2027-28 window runs November 2 to December 18, 2026** and applying early earns no priority. If you arrive mid-year, call the **Office of School Choice: (502) 485-6250**.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN JEFFERSONTOWN

Do you have a question about your immigration situation?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Jeffersontown and the surrounding area in Turkish and English. Free preliminary 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 admitted to the Missouri bar (No. 76084) and practices in the area of U.S. federal immigration law.

Attorney advertising. This guide is for general information only, is not legal advice and does not substitute for the advice of an attorney. Information was compiled from official sources as of October 15, 2026; fees and procedures change, so check the official site before you act. Reading this document does not create an attorney-client relationship. The choice of an attorney is an important decision and should not be based solely on advertisements. Current version: clinchlaw.com/city-guides/jeffersontown-immigration-attorney