

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · LEXINGTON

Enrolling in School in Lexington: Enrollment Follows the Address (2026)

Here enrollment is a registration, not an application: in the district's own words, your child enrolls at the school your home is zoned to. No window to watch, no lottery.

SHORT ANSWER

The usual story in this series is **correct here**, and we say so deliberately, because it is not correct in this state's other large city. Fayette County Public Schools writes: **"FCPS enrolls students at the school where they are zoned based on residential address."** So **your child enrolls at the school your home is zoned to**; you do not apply and wait, you do not watch for a window, and there is no lottery. The district has a **zone lookup tool** where you enter the address and find your school. **On immigration status the district has its own sentence: "No. FCPS does not collect documentation on students' or families' immigration status as part of the enrollment process."**

Enrollment in three steps

- 1 Review the **document list** in the district's resources section.
- 2 Complete the **online enrollment**.
- 3 Make an appointment with the school's **registrar** and finish the packet **in person**.

You look up which school your address is zoned to through the district's **SchoolSite Locator**. **The age rule:** in the district's own words, Kentucky law requires young people between the ages of **6 and 18** to attend school, and to enroll in kindergarten a child must have turned **5 on or before August 1**.

Required documents: the district's own list

- The child's **birth certificate** or **other reliable proof of identity**
- **Two separate proofs of residence:** a **deed or current lease** in your name, plus a second document such as a **current utility bill or a current tax bill or receipt**
- A current **Kentucky immunization certificate**
- Proof of a **preventive health examination**
- Proof of a **dental screening or examination** (by January 1 at the latest)
- Proof of an **eye examination** (by January 1 at the latest)
- Any **court orders** relating to the child

ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS

The district's own warning: **you may enroll without the immunization certificate, but your child cannot attend school until it is on file.** So you can enroll today; attendance begins once the **Kentucky immunization certificate** is in the record, and that needs an appointment with a physician or the county health department. **Book that appointment before enrollment day.**

An observation: there is **no Social Security number** on the district's required document list. That is read from the list itself; **no separate district sentence saying "we do not ask for a number" was found in this research.** If you are asked for one, ask what it will be used for.

The most critical item for a family arriving from Turkey: the birth certificate

The state rule is flexible, and we know that from the agencies' own texts: at first enrollment a school asks for **a certified copy of a birth certificate or other reliable proof of the student's identity and age.** FCPS names the alternatives one by one:

- Adoption records
- A **valid passport** or another federal government identification
- A military identification or an **immigration card**
- A valid Kentucky driver license or permit
- **Previous school records from outside FCPS** that identify the student by name and date of birth
- Or a written notice acknowledging that the family cannot currently produce one of these documents and that Kentucky law requires one of them to be given to the school **within 30 days of enrollment**

What that means concretely for a Turkish reader: your child's **passport** or **school records from Turkey** fall on that list, so "our birth certificate is in Turkish" is not by itself an obstacle. **But there is a gap and we write it plainly: no district states whether a translation or an apostille is required for a Turkish-language document. Call the school registrar before your appointment and ask;** if the answer is yes, note that the apostille chain in Kentucky has two steps and the detail is in our consulate guide.

The health document timetable

DOCUMENT	WHEN
Kentucky immunization certificate	On file within two weeks of enrollment
Preventive health examination	Performed within one year before first entry to school and before entry to grade 6
Eye examination (by an eye doctor)	At first entry between ages 3 and 6, by January 1 at the latest
Dental screening or examination	At ages 5 and 6, by January 1 at the latest

No agency sentence was found in this research on what to do with an immunization record brought from abroad. In this state, records from another state are transferred onto the Kentucky form **by a local health department or a local physician; that the same route applies to a foreign record is an inference**, not something the source says. **In Lexington your first stop may be the Fayette County Health Department**, but call first. **Immunization exemption:** the state's official exemption form is a **religious declaration**, published in English and Spanish; **the official wording and form for a medical exemption could not be found in this research**, and no agency statement was found about a philosophical or personal belief exemption either. **We do not say there is none.**

Immigration status: the district's own two sentences

We quote these exactly, because the strongest thing a parent can show at a school is the district's own text:

- **"No. FCPS does not collect documentation on students' or families' immigration status as part of the enrollment process."**
- **"Under the U.S. Constitution and Supreme Court precedent, all children have the right to attend public school regardless of immigration or citizenship status."**

So **no immigration status documentation is collected as part of enrollment**, and **the right to attend school does not depend on status**. The authority the district cites: *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982).

But the district writes one more thing in its own words

FCPS explains on its own page that the **"protected areas" status of schools has been rescinded**: **"On Jan. 21, 2025, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security rescinded its previous guidelines that designated schools as 'protected areas.'"** The procedure the district has built against that is also written down: school administrators and staff are instructed to direct **every request for access to students or student information** to the district office or legal counsel **before taking any action**; the district also states that it will distinguish between a **judicial warrant** and an **administrative** order.

TWO RIGHTS A PARENT CAN USE

- **Directory information opt-out:** the district writes that a parent may, **by written notice, block the release of a child's "directory information"** such as name, address and telephone number, and states that it does not routinely give that information to third parties. **Ask for that form at enrollment.**
- **A free interpreter:** the district's sentence is **"No, it is your right to request an interpreter, free of charge,"** and it adds **"Federal law requires the school district to provide interpreters and written documentation in the families' home language."** The district cites the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974.

Interpreters: a right, but keep expectations realistic

The formats offered are **in person, by telephone and virtual** (simultaneous or consecutive), and the listed uses include parent-teacher conferences, special education meetings and school events. The district also writes that you **can hand in a note written in your own language**; staff have the resources to translate it. **But the district's own figure says that as of September 2026 it serves students from 115 countries speaking**

114 languages, and Turkish is not among the top ten (the list names Spanish, Swahili, Nepali, Arabic, French, Kinyarwanda, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese and Khmer). **So a Turkish interpreter is not routine and has to be requested; make the request days before the meeting and in writing.**

If you move during the year

A family moving within Lexington must update the address with **two proofs of residence**. **If you have moved into a different school zone** and want your child to stay at the old school until the end of the year, you file an **out-of-area request**. Families who move over the summer enroll at the new school in early August. **Note:** moving within Lexington does not change your municipality - there is no other municipality in the county - **but it can change your school zone and your tax district**. While house hunting, run the address through **SchoolSite Locator**.

If you need a birth certificate: the district's own direction is that you can pick up the application form **from the school you are assigned to** or from the **Fayette County Health Department, 650 Newtown Pike;** telephone **(859) 252-2371**. **Winter days, one question to ask:** in this state a remote instruction day can be used instead of a snow day and each district makes its own decision; ask in September, **"does this district use remote instruction days, or traditional snow days?"**

Checklist before your appointment

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Look your address up in the zone tool	The district's SchoolSite Locator ; enrollment follows the address and you are not waiting for a window
☐ Prepare two separate proofs of residence	A deed or current lease plus a current bill; your first utility bill does the job
☐ Bring the passport and school records from Turkey	The district's alternative document list names a valid passport and previous school records explicitly
☐ Ask whether a translation or apostille is required	Call the registrar; no district states this and the answer sets your document timeline
☐ Book the immunization appointment	A physician or the county health department for transfer onto the Kentucky form; your child cannot attend until it is on file
☐ Calendar the eye and dental exams	Both by January 1 at the latest
☐ Request an interpreter early and in writing	Turkish is not in the district's top ten languages ; ask days before the meeting
☐ Ask for the directory information opt-out form	The district writes that a parent may block the release by written notice
☐ Ask the remote instruction day question	Each district decides for itself between snow days and remote instruction



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN LEXINGTON

Have a question about your immigration status?

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