

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · LONG ISLAND

Long Island School Enrollment Guide 2026 (Nassau and Suffolk)

How to find your school district by address, enrollment steps with Patchogue-Medford as an example, documents, and rights for immigrant families.

SHORT ANSWER

On Long Island your school district depends on your address, not your town or ZIP code: places such as East Patchogue and Terryville are split among districts. Confirm your address with the district's school finder first, then go to that district's central registration office. New York rules bar schools from asking for a Social Security number or a family's immigration status, and every child ages 5 to 21 may attend public school regardless of status.

Find the right district first

Long Island has many separate school districts, and their boundaries do not follow town or ZIP code lines. East Patchogue is split among several districts, and Terryville is mostly in Comsewogue but partly in others. Do not register on the assumption that "this neighborhood belongs to that district"; check your address with the district's own school finder or with Suffolk County's open-data "School District Polygon" map.

Step by step

- 1 Find the district for your address. Example: Patchogue-Medford's official address lookup is [SchoolSearch](#).
- 2 Call or book with the district's central registration office. Some districts take walk-ins; others ask for an appointment.
- 3 Gather documents: proof of the child's age (birth certificate, passport or baptism record), immunization records if available, a recent report card or transcript if available, and proof of address. Document lists differ by district.
- 4 If a language other than English is spoken at home, complete the Home Language Survey; the child's English is assessed and placement is decided with your involvement.
- 5 Complete the registration packet. Patchogue-Medford's packet is provided in English and Spanish.

Example: Patchogue-Medford central registration

TOPIC	DETAILS
Address	121 Saxton Street (rear of Saxton Middle School), Patchogue, NY 11772
Phone	(631) 687-6430
Hours (school year)	Mon and Wed-Fri 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Tue 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; shorter hours in summer (July 1-August 21)
How	Walk-ins are seen first come, first served; you can also book through Calendly or a call-back form
Area served	The whole Village of Patchogue and parts of Medford, East Patchogue, North Patchogue and Holtsville (confirm your address with SchoolSearch)
Also	The district has a Dual Language program; McKinney-Vento liaison: 631-687-6440

Document checklist (Patchogue-Medford example)

DOCUMENT	NOTES
☐ Child's proof of age	A birth certificate, passport or baptism record; nothing needs to be notarized.
☐ Proof of address: 1 primary + 2 secondary	Owners' primary: deed, homeowner insurance or mortgage statement, tax statement. Renters' primary: a signed lease or rental agreement, or a notarized residency affidavit. Secondary (two): a utility bill from the last 30 days, cable/satellite statement, bank statement or pay stub, cell phone bill, voter registration card, USPS change-of-address confirmation.
☐ If you live with a relative or friend	Ask for the district's Landlord Affidavit / Master Tenant form; do not delay enrollment.
☐ Immunization record	Bring it if you have it. Having your Turkish vaccine card (e-Nabız printout) translated and reviewed by a U.S. doctor helps avoid delays.
☐ Report card / transcript	If available.
☐ Social Security card	Not required. Schools cannot ask for it; New York State rules bar requests for an SSN or immigration status.

Other districts (confirm before you go)

DISTRICT	REGISTRATION OFFICE
Comsewogue (Port Jefferson Station, Terryville)	Owners: Town of Brookhaven tax bill, deed or mortgage statement; renters: a notarized landlord or resident statement plus the lease if any; a foreign passport is accepted as proof of age (district registration page) · listed at 290 Norwood Avenue, Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776 · (631) 474-8105; address and phone from indirect sources, so confirm before you go

DISTRICT	REGISTRATION OFFICE
West Babylon	Central registration in the administration building · (631) 376-7401 · phone from an indirect source; confirm it and the document list at wbschools.org

If your district is not listed, look for the "registration" page on the district's own website, or verify your address on the Suffolk County open-data map. Kindergarten registration usually opens around February; ask your district for the dates for fall 2027.

YOUR RIGHTS AS AN IMMIGRANT FAMILY

- Under Plyler v. Doe (1982), every child ages 5 to 21 living in New York may attend public school regardless of immigration status.
- New York State rules bar schools from requesting a Social Security card or number, or any information that would reveal a family's immigration status, at enrollment.
- Missing documents cannot delay enrollment; families get 3 days to provide proof of residency after enrolling.
- Students in temporary housing or without stable housing (McKinney-Vento) are enrolled immediately, and can get transportation and meal support; the first vaccine dose is due within 14 days.
- Compulsory attendance runs through age 16; older newly arrived youth may still enroll full-time.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN LONG ISLAND

Have a question about your immigration status?

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