

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles School Enrollment Guide 2026 (LAUSD)

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

SHORT ANSWER

New students enroll in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) online through LAUSD One Enrollment (enroll.lausd.net) or at their school; the Parent Hotline at (213) 443-1300 can help. In California, a Social Security number is never needed to enroll, and schools may not ask about a student's or family's immigration status. For Transitional Kindergarten (TK), a child must turn 4 on or before September 1, 2026, a statewide rule with no exceptions; for kindergarten, the child must turn 5. California accepts only a doctor's medical exemption for school vaccines, not a personal-belief exemption.

Step by step

- 1 Apply through LAUSD One Enrollment.** enroll.lausd.net. Download the Student Enrollment Form, complete it electronically, print and sign it and take it to your school, or enroll fully online.
- 2 Call the Parent Hotline if you need help.** (213) 443-1300.
- 3 Complete the Home Language Survey.** If a language other than English is spoken at home, your child takes the ELPAC (English Language Proficiency Assessments for California) and is placed in an English-learner program based on the results.
- 4 Check the age rule for TK or kindergarten.** A child who turns 4 on or before September 1, 2026 may enroll in TK; a child who turns 5 may enroll in kindergarten.
- 5 If your child is new to the U.S.,** ask the school about its support programs for newcomer students.

Document checklist

DOCUMENT	NOTES
☐ Child's birth certificate or passport	Enough to prove age; a Turkish passport is accepted.
☐ Proof of address	A lease, a utility bill or similar. A school cannot require a driver's license or voter registration as the only proof of residency.

DOCUMENT	NOTES
☐ Immunization record	Following California's standard childhood vaccine schedule; only a doctor's medical exemption is accepted.
☐ Social Security card	Not required. If you do not have an SSN or choose not to give it, your child is still enrolled.
☐ Proof of grade	A report card or transcript from a previous school, if available.

Age rules

LEVEL	RULE
Transitional Kindergarten (TK), 2026-27	Turn 4 on or before September 1, 2026 (birthdate September 2, 2021 to September 1, 2022); a state law with no local exceptions. TK is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program.
Kindergarten	Turn 5 on or before September 1, 2026

Vaccines

California ended the personal-belief exemption for school vaccines in 2016 (SB 277); only a licensed physician's medical exemption is accepted now, a stricter rule than Texas's conscientious-objector exemption. Have your child's Turkish vaccine record translated into English and reviewed by a U.S. doctor to avoid delays at enrollment.

Support for newcomer and immigrant students

- **We Are One L.A. Unified:** LAUSD's resource guide for immigrant families, built with input from recently immigrated students.
- **International Newcomer Enrichment Summer Program:** for foreign-born students in grades 9 to 12 enrolled in a U.S. school within the last 36 months, offering up to 10 elective credits, academic language support and wraparound services.
- **Migrant Education Program:** extra English, math and science support for children ages 3 to 21 in migratory families (families that move often for seasonal work). migranteducation.lausd.org

YOUR RIGHTS AS AN IMMIGRANT FAMILY

- Every child living in the U.S. may attend public school regardless of immigration status (*Plyler v. Doe*, 1982).
- Schools may not ask about your or your child's immigration status, and may not use it to judge residency.
- According to the California Attorney General's guidance, a Social Security number is never needed for school enrollment.
- A school may not effectively block an undocumented parent from enrolling a child by demanding documents like a driver's license or voter registration as proof of address (California Education Code section 48204.1).

Where to get help

OFFICE	CONTACT
LAUSD Parent Hotline	(213) 443-1300 · enroll.lausd.net
Migrant Education Program	migranteducation.lausd.org
International Newcomer Enrichment Summer Program	Ask your zoned school or LAUSD directly



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN LOS ANGELES

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Los Angeles and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English.
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