

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · METAIRIE

School Enrollment in Metairie: An Address-Based System 2026

A classic zoned system: your school is assigned by your address. And the best news for a family arriving from Turkey is on the document side, where a foreign birth certificate is explicitly accepted.

SHORT ANSWER

This is a classic zoned system, and it is completely different from the neighboring city. In the parish school district's own words, schools are assigned by the **attendance zone determined by your home address**, the district publishes a **school finder**, and **enrollment is online at every grade level**. **But here is the opposite detail:** while the neighboring city gathers every charter school into one central application, this district writes that **each charter school has its own unique admissions process**. **And the best news for a family arriving from Turkey is on the document side:** the district **explicitly accepts a foreign birth certificate** and gives a family that cannot produce proof of residence **fifteen school days**.

Your school is determined by your address

Enrollment is, in the district's own words, **online at every grade level**, and school assignment follows **the attendance zone determined by your home address**. Enter your address in the district's school finder to see which school you fall into. **That makes the question of which government your address falls under a school question here:** a home with a neighboring city's mailing address can sit in this parish, and then your child's school system changes entirely.

A foreign birth certificate is explicitly accepted

The district's own sentence: **the birth certificate is used only to verify the student's legal name, date of birth and the parent's name, and a foreign birth certificate is an acceptable document for verifying the student's information. Among the five communities examined this round, this is the only district that writes that sentence explicitly.** Print the page and keep it in your file; it makes things easier at the counter.

Documents required

- A completed **new student registration form**
- **The student's birth certificate**, including a foreign one
- **Immunization records**, per state requirements
- **Two** parish residency documents

- **Last year's report card** (except for kindergarten)
- **A high school transcript**, if applicable
- **Custody documents**, if applicable

Residency documents and fifteen school days

The documents must carry the parent's name and current legal address, and **at least two** are required. The district's own list:

- A lease
- A current utility bill or deposit receipt
- A purchase agreement or act of sale for a completed residence
- A purchase agreement or act of sale for a lot, **plus a notarized statement from the builder giving a completion date** (not more than 90 calendar days out)
- A guardianship document issued or approved by the parish civil court, for a student 16 or younger
- Documents verifying the student's emancipation
- **An official document issued or approved by a federal immigration authority. Note:** the list counts this as **one accepted option for proof of residence, not a requirement**. A lease and a utility bill do the same job; **you are not obliged to present your immigration document**. The agency name the district uses is an outdated one and we did not change it.

And the most generous item: if you have none of them, in the district's own words **the principal gives the parent or the student fifteen school days to produce acceptable documents**. So a family whose paperwork has not come through yet can still start a child in school.

Programs above the zoned system

PROGRAM	HOW YOU GET IN
Advanced academies	Selective admission, a separate application process
Magnet programs (science and technology, arts, language, international program)	The application cycle runs in the spring
Virtual high school	Separate application
Charter schools	Each has its own unique admissions process; there is no central application
Early childhood	A separate system; enrollment in spring and summer, and not on a first-come basis . A child in the final year is automatically assigned to the address-based school for kindergarten

This is the sharpest structural difference between the two neighboring communities. In the neighboring city one application covers every school; here the zoned school is automatic while charter schools are **separate applications you have to track one by one**. If you are considering a charter school, **pull each school's calendar from its own page**.

Immigration status and school

- Under *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982), **immigration status is not a barrier to enrolling in public school.**
- **This parish's school district publishes a legal guidance library on its own site**, listing documents titled Immigration Enforcement Guide and Rights of All Children to Enroll in School Fact Sheet. **The documents themselves could not be reached**, so we do not relay their content; **but the fact that a Louisiana school district publishes those titles on its own site was verified.**
- The neighboring city's district writes explicitly in its handbook that documentation of immigration status may not be requested. **The same sentence was not found in this parish's documents**; we do not say it does not exist, we say **the research did not find it.**

Immunization: a state requirement and a very broad exemption

- In child care and early learning centers, the child must be current with the federal health agency's age-based schedule.
- **From kindergarten on:** pertussis, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, polio, measles-mumps-rubella (second dose) and varicella. Additional vaccines are required **from grade 6** and **from grade 11.**
- **We do not print dose counts:** the column alignment of the state's published table did not read the same way in two separate reading modes. **Check the state's own document for dose counts.**
- **The exemption is very broad:** state law says a physician's note stating a medical reason **or a written dissent from the student or the parent or guardian** is sufficient, and it requires the text of that provision to appear on every notice sent to families.
- **Even so, bring your immunization records from Turkey and have them translated;** they are requested repeatedly on both the school and the health side.

Language support and address changes

The parish school district's site has pages for a **translation services unit**, an **English as a second language program**, **parent liaison officers** and a migrant education program, plus a separate dual-language program. **No record was found of Turkish-language service.** Put your request for language support **in writing** at enrollment and ask which languages are available.

If your address changes: if the assigned school does not change, call the current school and update the information; **if it does change, apply to the new school with current residency documents. Even a move inside the parish can change the school.**



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN METAIRIE

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Metairie, 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.

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