

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · MIAMI

Miami School Enrollment Guide 2026 (Miami-Dade County Public Schools)

Enrollment steps from Pre-K to high school, documents, VPK, and English (ESOL) support for newcomer families.

SHORT ANSWER

New Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students enroll through the Parent Portal at dadeschools.net; the district office is at 1450 NE 2nd Ave, Miami, (305) 995-1000. You need a birth certificate, a Florida immunization certification (DH 680), a physical exam from the past year and proof of residence; under Florida law an SSN is not a condition of enrollment. If a document is missing, ask to speak with a school administrator. Miami-Dade has no single newcomer center; English support runs through ESOL classes in individual schools.

Step by step

- 1 Gather the documents (checklist below).
- 2 Complete the online enrollment application through the M-DCPS Parent Portal at dadeschools.net. For enrollment help, use the family support function at yourbestchoice.dadeschools.net or call the district office.
- 3 District office: 1450 NE 2nd Ave, Miami, FL 33132, (305) 995-1000. Confirm the address and hours before you go.
- 4 Find out your child's school and whether it enrolls online or in person based on your home address.

Document checklist

DOCUMENT	NOTES
☐ Birth certificate (original, attested)	Your child's Turkish birth certificate or another document showing the date of birth; confirm with the school
☐ Florida Certification of Immunization or exemption (Form DH 680)	Available from the Florida health department or your doctor
☐ Physical exam	Completed within the past year; a TB screening is also requested
☐ Proof of residence	Usually two documents: a utility bill, a lease, or the district residence affidavit form
☐ Transfer records (if applicable)	A report card or transcript, if transferring from another school

This checklist is drawn from the district's enrollment handbook; confirm your school's current requirements before you enroll. If a document is missing, enrollment is not refused: ask to speak with a school administrator.

Under Fla. Stat. 1008.386, school districts request a Social Security number at enrollment, but a student is not required to provide one as a condition of enrollment or graduation. The school cannot refuse enrollment because you do not give an SSN; the district uses a state-assigned Florida student identification number, not the SSN, as the student ID.

For newcomer families: English (ESOL) support

Miami-Dade County Public Schools does not have one single newcomer center like Jacksonville's. Instead, individual schools run small newcomer ESOL classes and summer English programs, coordinated by the Department of Bilingual Education and World Languages: (305) 995-2428. Call them for ESOL placement and program questions, or the general enrollment line at (305) 995-1000.

Free preschool: VPK

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) is free for Florida children who turn 4 on or before September 1 of that year. Seats in M-DCPS's own VPK program (at more than 200 schools) are assigned by lottery, and families not selected can enter an additional online lottery. M-DCPS Early Childhood Programs: (305) 995-7632. For VPK providers outside M-DCPS, the Certificate of Eligibility comes from the Miami-Dade Early Learning Coalition: (305) 646-7220. Seats are limited, so apply early.

Home Language Survey and English screening

The Home Language Survey completed at registration triggers English-proficiency screening within the first 20 days if a language other than English is spoken at home. It is not a penalty; it routes your child to support programs.

YOUR RIGHTS AS AN IMMIGRANT FAMILY

- An SSN is not a condition of enrollment or graduation (Fla. Stat. 1008.386). The U.S. Constitution, under the Supreme Court's Plyler v. Doe decision, also requires public schools to admit children regardless of immigration status.
- If you are missing a document, call your school or the M-DCPS district office before you enroll: (305) 995-1000.
- A Florida immunization certificate (DH 680) is issued by a Florida doctor or the county health department; bring an English translation of your child's Turkish vaccination record to the appointment.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN MIAMI

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Miami and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English. Free evaluation: clinchlaw.com/free-evaluation · +1 866-491-7669

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