

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · MINNEAPOLIS

Enrolling in School in Minneapolis: Documents, Immunizations and Language Support 2026

The admission provision looks only at residence and age. No number on the document list, and address verification is not even on the standard list. But Turkish is not among the languages the district actually translates into.

SHORT ANSWER

Minneapolis has **a single school district**, so inside the city you have no district problem. Admission turns on state law, and the statute looks only at **residence in the district and the child's age; there is not one word about immigration** in the admission provision. The district's published enrollment document list **does not mention a Social Security number**: what it asks for is the child's birth certificate or another document showing name and date of birth, plus **current immunization records**. One surprising detail: **address verification is not even on the standard list**. On language, let us be straight: the languages the district actually translates into are **Hmong, Somali and Spanish**, and **Turkish is on none of the lists**.

What is asked for

ITEM	WHAT IS REQUESTED
The child's identity	A birth certificate or another document showing name and date of birth
Health	The most current immunization records . The district accepts other formats if all required immunizations are listed
Address	Not on the standard list; the district may request it in some cases
Social Security number	Not mentioned on the list
Other	Medical information, special education paperwork if any, a transcript for a high school student (or the name of the previous school)
Contact	Parent name, address, phone numbers and at least one emergency contact

We write the number question carefully: **there is no number on the district's published list**, and that is the list itself rather than an institutional promise that no number will be requested. The only reference to a number in the district is in the **free and reduced-price meal application**, where **only the last four digits** of an

adult's number are requested, and that form is **separate from enrollment** and not a condition of it. Families do confuse the two; you can file the meal application later, once you have a number.

How enrollment works

- 1 **Prepare the file:** the child's birth certificate and a certified translation, the immunization card you brought from Türkiye and its translation, a proof of address, and the previous school's records if any.
- 2 **Go to a placement office.** For a high school student and for a newly arrived middle or elementary student, you have to visit one of the district's two placement offices; enrollment is not a task completed entirely online.
- 3 **Make the interpreter request at enrollment and in writing.** For Turkish the route is a low-incidence language interpreter on request, and it runs through outside agencies.
- 4 **If immunization records are missing, do not wait to start.** State law allows a transferring student to attend for **up to 30 days** while records are in transit; mention this provision when you enroll.
- 5 **If you have no lease yet, cite the homeless student clause.** The district **may not deny** free admission to a student solely because it cannot establish residence in the district.
- 6 **Plan the meal application separately.** It is not a condition of enrollment and can be filed later, once you have a number.

LANGUAGE: WHAT THE DISTRICT ACTUALLY DOES, AND WHERE TURKISH IS ABSENT

- The district's multilingual department writes that students and families speak **more than a hundred languages**. But "a hundred languages" and "service in a hundred languages" are not the same thing.
- **Family communication letters are translated into Hmong, Somali and Spanish.**
- **The school choice and placement phone line** supports English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong.
- On the program side there are **dual language programs** in Spanish and Hmong, plus a **Somali heritage language** program. Language proficiency testing is offered in many languages, including Hmong, Somali, Spanish and Oromo.
- **Turkish is on none of these lists.** The route is a low-incidence language interpreter on request; make the request **at enrollment and in writing**, and repeat it for the next parent conference.
- **A comparison, because the two big cities' districts really do differ:** in St. Paul's school district **Karen is one of four official service languages**, and it is not in Minneapolis; that district also uses a **language access card** and a poster at the entrance to make asking easier. **We could not confirm an equivalent of either mechanism in Minneapolis;** ask at the school, but do not plan on the assumption that it exists.

Immunizations and exemptions

- **Immunization is required**, but there are two exemption routes: a physician's statement of medical contraindication, or the parent's **notarized statement** based on conscientiously held beliefs.
- **The thirty-day transfer window** is in the statute and it helps a family arriving from Türkiye directly: the translation of an immunization card or a missing record does not have to delay your child's start by a

month.

- Age thresholds, the immunization list and the full text of the exemptions are in [the school section of the state guide](#); this guide does not repeat them.
- **Have the printout of your immunization record from Türkiye and the birth certificate translated into English from the outset.** Get report cards translated early too.

NO DISTRICT PROBLEM INSIDE THE CITY, BUT THERE IS ONE IF YOU CHANGE CITIES

Because Minneapolis has a single district, moving within this city does not change your school district.

Moving to a suburb does: Plymouth, which this series covers, has **four separate school districts** and which one you fall into depends on **your street**, while Minnetonka has three. So for anyone changing cities, the question to ask before signing a lease is "which district". Put a library card for your child in the same week: the county system asks for no number and it opens the door to free printing.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN MINNEAPOLIS

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Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Minneapolis and the surrounding area, 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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