

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · MINNESOTA

School Enrollment in Minnesota: Documents, Immunization and 2026

The statute looks only at residence and age and says nothing about immigration. Immunization is required, but a transferring student gets a thirty-day window.

SHORT ANSWER

The statute looks at two things: **living in the district, and the child's age**. We read the whole admission section and **immigration is not mentioned once**. The district document lists we were able to read also **do not ask for a Social Security number**. Immunization is a real requirement, but the statute allows both a medical exemption and a **notarized conscientious objection**, and a student transferring between schools may enroll and attend **for up to 30 days** while records are sent. Which district you fall into depends on **your street**: Plymouth has four, Minnetonka has three, and Crookston has one.

Admission requirements: what the statute says

The [admission section](#) grants admission to a free public school to a person who **resides in the district operating the school**, is under 21, and meets the minimum age. The criteria are **residence and age** only.

ITEM	RULE
Kindergarten	At least five years old on September 1 of the enrollment year
First grade	At least six on the same date, or having completed kindergarten
Upper age limit	A student who turns 21 while enrolled may continue until graduation requirements are met or the school year ends; for a student with a disability the limit is the 22nd birthday
If you do not have a lease yet	A district may not refuse free admission to a homeless student solely because it cannot determine that the student resides in the district. This paragraph was written for exactly that situation

THE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER QUESTION: WHAT WE FOUND AND WHAT WE DID NOT

- **State law does not require a number for enrollment.** We did not see one in the district lists we read either: the enrollment list of Crookston Public Schools, the single district in the northwest, asks only for **immunization records and a birth certificate**, and no number appears.
- The list of the largest city's district asks for **the child's birth certificate or another document showing name and date of birth and current immunization records**; address verification is not on the standard list, and no number appears.
- In that district the only reference to a number is in the **application for free and reduced-price lunch**, where the **last four digits** of an adult's number are requested. **That form is a separate matter from enrollment.**
- **We write this carefully:** the district pages we read do not ask for a number, and that is the absence of a number from published lists, not an institutional commitment that none will ever be asked for.
- **We could not read the document lists of the suburban districts in Plymouth and Minnetonka, or of Saint Paul Public Schools.** Ask your own district's enrollment office for its list; if you are asked, you can point out that the statute ties admission to residence and age.

Immunization: the requirement, two exemptions and a thirty-day window

The [immunization section](#) requires proof of immunity or immunization against measles (after 12 months), rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, mumps, Hib and hepatitis B for students older than two months. There is an alternative: proof of immunity to measles, rubella, mumps and Hib, plus proof that the diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and hepatitis B schedule has been **begun**.

- **First exemption route:** a physician's signed statement that immunization is **contraindicated for medical reasons**, or laboratory proof of immunity.
- **Second exemption route:** a **notarized statement** by a parent, guardian or adult student based on **conscientiously held beliefs**, with a copy going to the **state health department**.
- There are age-based exemptions too; for example pertussis for those seven and older, and polio for those eighteen and older.
- **And the most practical provision for a newcomer:** a student **transferring** between elementary or secondary schools may enroll and attend **for up to 30 days** while records are being sent. So a translation of a Turkish immunization card, or an incomplete record, does not have to delay the start of school by a month. **Point this section out when you enroll.**
- **Practical preparation:** bring a certified English translation of the Turkish immunization card, show it to the school health office, and ask whether they want a translation of anything else.

Which district you fall into: a real question in this state

COMMUNITY	SCHOOL DISTRICT STRUCTURE
Plymouth	Four separate districts divide the city, and the city publishes on its own page what percentage of the city area each district covers; the smallest slice is less than three percent of the city and that district's schools are elsewhere. Which one you fall into depends on your street
Minnetonka	Three districts , and the city publishes a lookup tool showing which district serves a neighborhood
Minneapolis and St. Paul	Each has its own single district , but the languages actually served differ
Crookston	One district ; enrollment runs through one district office and three buildings, nonresidents file an open enrollment form, and a family schooling at home must notify the district by October 1 each year

Find out the district before you sign a lease. In four-district Plymouth neighboring streets go to different schools; the city publishes a boundary map and you should trust that map rather than what an agent tells you. District boundaries do not have to match city boundaries, and in this state they do not.

LANGUAGE: TURKISH IS NOT A SERVICE LANGUAGE IN ANY DISTRICT

- The districts in the two large cities serve students who speak more than a hundred languages at home, but **the languages actually translated are few**: Hmong, Somali and Spanish in Minneapolis; Hmong, Spanish, Karen and Somali in St. Paul.
- **The two lists are not the same**: Karen is one of the four official languages in St. Paul and not in Minneapolis, because the immigrant populations of the two cities differ. **Turkish is on neither list.**
- For a Turkish-speaking parent the route is this: both districts have a **less commonly used language interpreter on request** mechanism, run through outside agencies.
- Saint Paul Public Schools built the simplest way to ask: tell a staff member, show the **language access card**, or point at your language on the poster at the school entrance. In Minneapolis we **could not verify** equivalents of those mechanisms.
- **Practical advice**: make the interpreter request **at enrollment and in writing**; do not leave it for the first parent meeting.
- At enrollment you fill out a survey asking which language is spoken at home, and a **language assessment** follows when a language other than English is marked. **That is not an obstacle, it is a door to support.**

- 1 Pin down the address.** The number of districts varies by community; verify from the boundary map before you rent and confirm with the district.
- 2 Ask for your own district's document list.** We could not read the lists of all five communities, and this guide does not invent one.
- 3 Prepare the birth certificate and immunization card with certified English translations.**
- 4 If you are transferring, point out the thirty-day window**; the child may attend while records arrive.

- 5 If you will use an exemption, choose the route up front:** the medical statement comes from a physician, the conscientious objection must be **notarized**.
- 6 Get your interpreter request written into the enrollment form** and ask for written confirmation; Turkish is not a service language in any district.
- 7 Keep the meal assistance application separate from enrollment.** The number question comes up there, not on the enrollment list.
- 8 Open the child's health coverage the same week.** A child under 18 can enroll in MinnesotaCare regardless of status, and there is no reason to delay.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN MINNESOTA

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Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients across Minnesota, 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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