

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · NEW ORLEANS

School Enrollment in New Orleans 2026: Centralized Application and Calendar

There is no neighborhood school in this city and almost everything that is true of other cities is void here. The system is named NCAP and the site is enrollnolaps.com.

SHORT ANSWER

Read this carefully, because almost everything that is true of other cities is void here. There is no **neighborhood school** in this city. The district's own sentence: this is a unique school system in which **most schools are public charter schools**, and although charter schools are run by separate organizations the district manages **enrollment and applications for all schools through one unified enrollment system**. **We correct two stale facts here:** the official name of the system is **NCAP**, and the enrollment site is **enrollnolaps.com**; the older address that circulates online now lands on a **parked domain page**, which sends a reader to a blank screen. **The calendar:** applications open **November 2, 2026**, the deadline is **January 22, 2027**, and results come **by March 31, 2027**.

Why it is centralized: the district's own sentence

The district's own page says that most schools in this city are **public charter schools**; although charter schools are run by separate management organizations, **the district manages their enrollment and applications through a unified enrollment system**. The family handbook is even firmer: **all students served at type one, type two and type three charter schools and at directly operated schools** must go through this enrollment process.

The official name of the system is NCAP, and the district spells it out as the common application process. **Write the address correctly:** today's official address is **enrollnolaps.com**. **This document never writes the former system name or the former address**, because writing it would send a reader to a blank page. If you see the old name in a guide or a forum, **that text is out of date**.

Calendar for the 2027-2028 school year

DATE	EVENT
November 2, 2026	Main round applications open
January 22, 2027	Application deadline
By March 31, 2027	Placement results are released
Every May	Open enrollment for those seeking or changing a seat after the main round

Changing schools midyear is not free: the district says that **from October 1 students may not change schools by preference alone.** A **hardship** or **expedited transfer** request is used instead, and those have their own category lists.

IF YOU ARRIVE MIDYEAR: THE MOST USEFUL SENTENCE IN THIS DOCUMENT

- Families arriving from Turkey at the end of summer or midyear will have missed the main round. **But the child is not left without a school.**
- Families new to the system who must enroll after a certain date must go to a Family Resource Center.
- Students who have never attended in this system and need a seat can enroll into open seats on a **first-come, first-served** basis.
- Placements are made **in person** and **according to seat availability.**
- **What that means for you is plain:** your child starts school, but it will be an open school, not the school you wanted. You apply to the schools you want in the next main round. **If you can, build your moving calendar around the main round.**

Immigration status: the clearest sentence in the series

From the student protections section of the family handbook, in the district's own words: **students shall neither be required nor asked to present documentation pertaining to immigration status**, and they **shall not be denied admission** based on immigration status or on failure to present such documentation. The handbook grounds this in *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982) and in the federal student records statute.

And the sentence that follows is the clearest wording measured in this series: reference to the immigration status of a child or guardian shall not appear on any forms, materials, paperwork, or records produced, distributed, or collected by the school. So this does not only say we do not ask; **it bars that information from the records.** The district that writes it this plainly in its own document is **New Orleans**. The same sentence **could not be found** in the state's other school districts; we do not say none exists, we say **research could not find one.**

Required documents

- **For in-person placement the district lists:** parent identification, proof of residency, the child's birth certificate and the most recent report card. Schools may ask for additional documents.
- **Proof of age options:** a birth certificate (original or copy), a **passport**, or a certificate of live birth. **A passport is accepted**, which is critical for a family arriving from abroad.
- The handbook also expressly names **a passport or citizenship documents** as a substitute where a birth record cannot be obtained from the country of birth.
- **And a saving sentence:** with no documents at all, **the student is enrolled provisionally** and the school takes steps to secure an appropriate grade placement. **Lack of documents does not block enrollment.**

Residency documents

- One or more of the following is required, and the school takes a legible copy at enrollment: **an electric or gas bill** (last 90 days), **a water or sewer bill** (last 90 days), **a cable or internet bill** (last 90 days), a housing voucher document, **a mortgage agreement or a lease whose end date is in the future**, a property tax exemption in the parent's name, or an official letter from a government agency.
- **There is a separate route for a family staying in someone else's home**, a common situation for a newcomer from Turkey: a written statement (the child's name, the parent's name, and the name and address of the person they stay with), residency documents in that person's name, and **photo identification for both the parent and the host** (a license, a **passport** or a state identification card).
- **Residency is verified annually.** If a question arises the family is given **five business days**; if it cannot be proven the school issues a letter and removes the student from the roll.
- In cases of homelessness and foster care, federal law means **no proof of residency is required**; a separate state form is completed instead.

Age and grade rules

- Compulsory attendance runs **from age 5** through the end of the school year in which the student turns 18. Without a diploma a student may remain **through the year in which they turn 21, or 22** with an individualized education program.
- **Four-year-old class:** a child who is 4 on September 30 of the calendar year. **Kindergarten:** a child who is 5 on September 30.
- **First grade and the real obstacle:** state law requires, as a prerequisite for enrollment in the first grade of a public school, that the child has **attended a full-day kindergarten for a full school year** and has **passed an academic readiness screening before enrollment**.
- **For a 6-year-old arriving from Turkey without a kindergarten record this is a real item:** either a full-year kindergarten record or **the academic readiness screening**. Get the kindergarten record before you move and have it translated by a **sworn translator**.

SCHOOLS WITH ADMISSIONS CRITERIA, AND SIBLINGS

- By the district's own count **10 schools have admissions criteria:** four **academic**, five **foreign language proficiency**, and one an **open house** requirement. The language schools look for proficiency in **French and Spanish**.
- **But there is a very important detail:** the district says that **students entering kindergarten do not need to meet the eligibility requirements**; listing the school on your application is enough. **If your child is young, the selective schools are open to you too.**
- **For siblings:** the application has a screen for requesting that children in the same household be placed at the same school. The condition is that **all the children list exactly the same schools in exactly the same order**. The cost is the chance of dropping to a lower-ranked choice.

Language support and the neighboring parish

- The enrollment site has a language selector and the listed languages are **English, Spanish, French, Chinese and Arabic**. Application videos are in English, Spanish and Vietnamese; the family handbook is in English and Spanish. **Turkish appears in none of them.**
 - No text on the district's pages writes out **the right to an individual interpreter** in a separate sentence; it **could not be found**. For enrollment the phone is **504-910-8500** and the email is enroll@nolapublicschools.com. **Make your interpreter request in writing and ask for the answer in writing.**
 - **The neighboring parish runs an entirely different system**, and we write that because the mailing address trap works here too: in neighboring **Jefferson Parish** the school system is a **classic zoned system**, with a school assigned by address. And for charter schools the district's own sentence is: **each charter school has its own unique admissions process**. Two neighboring communities, two opposite structures.
 - **If your address lookup places you in the neighboring parish**, the calendar and system in this document **do not apply to you**.
 - **On foreign birth certificates there are three positions inside the state**: one parish asks a person born abroad for a birth certificate **and** a passport; another speaks only of a state certified birth certificate and does not mention foreign documents; this city's district **counts a passport** and, with no documents at all, enrolls the student **provisionally**. **We publish all three and pick no side.**
- 1 **Put the calendar on your calendar**: the main round opens **November 2, 2026**, closes **January 22, 2027**, and results come **by March 31, 2027**.
 - 2 **Write the enrollment site correctly**: **enrollnolaps.com**. The older address you will find online lands on a parked page.
 - 3 **If you arrive midyear, go to a Family Resource Center**; placement is in person and by seat availability.
 - 4 **Prepare your residency documents up front**; if you stay in someone else's home you need a written statement and two photo identifications.
 - 5 **Get your child's kindergarten attendance record from Turkey and have it translated by a sworn translator**; it is the prerequisite for first grade.
 - 6 **If your child is young, list the selective schools as well**; no eligibility is required for kindergarten entry.
 - 7 **Make your interpreter request in writing**; Turkish appears in no channel.
 - 8 **For statewide school rules see** [our Louisiana guide](#).



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN NEW ORLEANS

Have a question about your immigration status?

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