

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · NEW YORK

New York City School Enrollment Guide 2026 (NYC Public Schools)

Enrollment steps at your zoned school or a Family Welcome Center, documents, 3-K/Pre-K age rules, and rights for immigrant families.

SHORT ANSWER

Most NYC Public Schools students enroll directly at their zoned school; families without one, or who need help, use one of 9 Family Welcome Centers spread across the five boroughs. A birth certificate or passport for the child, plus two proof-of-address documents from the approved list, are usually enough. New York State rules bar schools from asking for a Social Security number or a family's immigration status. 3-K (age 3) and Pre-K (age 4) are free for every eligible child.

Step by step

- 1 Find your zoned school at schoolsearch.schools.nyc or by calling 311.
- 2 If you have no zoned school, need a transfer, or need enrollment help, visit the nearest Family Welcome Center or call 718-935-3500 for an appointment (online booking is temporarily disabled).
- 3 Gather documents: proof of the child's age (birth certificate, passport or baptism record), immunization records if available, a recent report card or transcript if available, and two proof-of-address documents from the list below. Nothing needs to be notarized.
- 4 Complete the Home Language Survey. If a language other than English is spoken at home, the child's English is assessed and placement is decided with your involvement.
- 5 Create a NYC Schools Account at myschools.nyc to apply to schools from 3-K through 12th grade and to track your child's enrollment.

Document checklist

DOCUMENT	NOTES
☐ Child's proof of age	A birth certificate, passport or baptism record is enough.
☐ Proof of address (2 documents)	A lease or deed, an electric, gas or cable bill from the last 60 days, a water bill from the last 90 days, a state or city ID including IDNYC, a tax document, a pay stub, a voter registration card, or similar official documents (provide two).
☐ Immunization record	Bring it if you have it.

DOCUMENT	NOTES
☐ Report card / transcript	If available.
☐ Custody / guardianship document	If applicable, issued within the last 60 days.
☐ Social Security card	Not required. Schools cannot ask for it; New York State rules explicitly bar requests for an SSN or immigration status.

Family Welcome Centers (5 boroughs)

They help families without a zoned school, transfers, and MySchools/application support. Hours: Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Bring government-issued ID to enter the building.

BOROUGH	ADDRESS
Bronx	1 Fordham Plaza, 7th Fl, Bronx, NY 10458
Bronx	1230 Zerega Avenue, Room 24, Bronx, NY 10462
Brooklyn	1780 Ocean Avenue, 3rd Fl, Brooklyn, NY 11230
Brooklyn	415 89th Street, 5th Fl, Brooklyn, NY 11209
Brooklyn	1665 St. Mark's Avenue, Room 116, Brooklyn, NY 11233
Manhattan	333 Seventh Avenue, 12th Fl, Room 1211, New York, NY 10001
Manhattan	123 Morningside Drive, Room 235, New York, NY 10027
Queens	30-48 Linden Place, 2nd Fl, Flushing, NY 11354
Queens	90-27 Sutphin Boulevard, 1st Fl, Jamaica, NY 11435
Staten Island	365 Bay Street, Staten Island, NY 10301

3-K, Pre-K and age rules

LEVEL	RULE
3-K	For children born in 2023, living in New York City; free for every eligible child in 2026-27.
Pre-K	For children born in 2022; free.
Kindergarten	For children who turn 5 during the enrollment calendar year.
Middle school	After completing 5th grade, most schools span grades 6-8.
High school	After 8th grade; newly arrived or unenrolled high-schoolers should visit a Family Welcome Center.

LEVEL	RULE
Compulsory attendance	Starts at 6 and runs through 16; older newly arrived youth may still enroll full-time.

The 2026-27 main application round ran January 14 to February 27, 2026, with most offers sent in May; families arriving during the year can get help with applications and waitlists at a Family Welcome Center.

YOUR RIGHTS AS AN IMMIGRANT FAMILY

- Under Plyler v. Doe (1982), every child ages 5 to 21 living in the district may attend public school regardless of immigration status.
- New York State rules bar schools from requesting a Social Security card or number, or any information that would reveal a family's immigration status, at enrollment.
- Missing documents cannot delay enrollment; families get 3 days to provide proof of residency after enrolling.
- Students in temporary housing (including refugees classed as homeless) must be enrolled immediately, even without immunization records; the first dose is due within 14 days.
- Have foreign vaccine records translated and reviewed by a U.S. doctor to avoid delays.

Where to get help

OFFICE	CONTACT
Family Welcome Center appointments / general help line	718-935-3500 · 718-935-2828
NYC Schools Account / MySchools	myschools.nyc
Zoned school locator	schoolsearch.schools.nyc or 311



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN NEW YORK CITY

Have a question about your immigration status?

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

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