

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · NEWTON

Newton School Enrollment Guide 2026 (Schools Assigned by Street Address)

The Aspen portal, the Family Welcome Center, the buffer zone rule, two proofs of occupancy dated within 30 days, and the SSN question.

SHORT ANSWER

Newton Public Schools registration is done online through the Aspen portal, and the help comes from one place: the **Family Welcome Center**, 100 Walnut Street, Room 204, 617-559-6055, with school-year walk-in hours Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The published checklist lists neither a Social Security number nor any immigration document; it asks for one proof of residency, **two proofs of occupancy dated within 30 days**, the child's birth certificate or passport and an immunization record. Schools are assigned by **street address**, not by village.

Assignment goes by address, not by village

Newton is made up of thirteen villages, but the school zones do not follow village lines: every address has an assigned elementary and middle school, and you see it by entering your address in the city's Find My School tool. If your address sits near the line between two schools you are in a **buffer zone**: both schools are listed, you state a preference at registration, but in the district's own words the district makes the final decision. So when you look at a home, check which school the street belongs to rather than the name of the village, and if you are in a buffer zone, visit both schools.

Schools and hours

- **Fifteen elementary schools:** Angier, Bowen, Burr, Cabot, Countryside, Franklin, Horace Mann, Lincoln-Eliot, Mason-Rice, Memorial Spaulding, Peirce, Underwood, Ward, Williams, Zervas.
- **Four middle schools:** Bigelow, Charles E. Brown, F.A. Day, Oak Hill. **Two high schools:** Newton North and Newton South. There is also Newton Central High School and the Newton Early Childhood Program. The district serves more than 11,000 students.
- **Hours (2026-27):** elementary schools 8:10 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. (early release Wednesday at 12:35), middle schools start between 7:50 and 8:20, high schools 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. (3:25 on Tuesday). Plan your working hours around that; with elementary dismissal at 2:50, after-school care is a separate question for most families.
- **After school:** each elementary school has its own paid after-school program and these run separately from the district (the Newton After-School Association). The district tells you to call your child's own school. It makes sense to settle this at the same time as the registration.
- **Age limits:** three by August 31 for the Early Childhood program, five for kindergarten, six for first grade.

How to register, step by step

- 1 Apply through the Aspen portal.** Registration runs through aspen.newton.k12.ma.us. Technical help aspen@newton.k12.ma.us, enrollment questions Enrollment@newton.k12.ma.us.
- 2 Use the Family Welcome Center if you need help.** 100 Walnut Street, Room 204, Newton MA 02460, 617-559-6055. School-year walk-ins Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (summer Tuesday to Thursday 9 to 2); appointments are also available. The center offers multilingual support, and families without an email address can book a registration support appointment by phone or in person.
- 3 Check which school your address belongs to.** The city's Find My School tool works it out from the address; in a buffer zone, two schools are listed.
- 4 Prepare the documents.** The list below is what is asked for, and the proof of occupancy requires **two separate** items.
- 5 The language assessment comes after registration.** If a language other than English is spoken at home, someone from the ELL team calls you after the registration is complete to book the assessment. So the screening does not hold up the registration.

Document checklist

DOCUMENT	DETAIL
☐ Proof of residency (one from group A)	A deed, an original current mortgage statement, a signed purchase and sale agreement showing the closing date, or an original current lease or subsidized housing (Section 8) agreement
☐ Proof of occupancy (two from group B)	An electricity bill or a letter confirming the account, gas, water, cable or internet, or a landline phone bill; each dated within the last 30 days . If the utilities are included in the rent and the lease does not say so, a notarized letter from the owner is asked for
☐ The child's age	A birth or adoption certificate (which proves age and custody together) or a passport (with a passport, a separate custody document is also asked for)
☐ Parent ID	A driver's license, a passport or another government photo ID
☐ Health	The immunization record is asked for at registration and records from abroad are accepted (a catch-up schedule works if anything is missing). A physical exam from the last 12 months can be handed in after registration for grades 1 to 12; for kindergarten it is required at registration, along with vision and lead screening
☐ If your name is not on the lease	You get a Residency Affidavit from the Welcome Center, fill it in and return it with the deed or lease; this does not block the registration
☐ Any extra documents	A transcript, an IEP or 504 plan, WIDA and other language assessments, a custody order or separation agreement, caregiver authorization, grade 10 MCAS results

THE TWO-PROOFS-OF-OCCUPANCY PROBLEM AND HOW TO SOLVE IT

Newton asks for two separate proofs of occupancy, each dated within the last 30 days. There is a calendar trap here: **Newton bills water quarterly**, so most of the time it does not meet the 30-day rule. The practical answer is to open at least two utility accounts in the household or to ask the companies for a letter confirming the account: the electricity comes from Eversource, the gas from National Grid, and a cable or internet account also counts. If the utilities are included in the rent and the lease does not say so, a notarized letter from the owner is required, so settle in writing which bills are yours when you sign. Two exemptions exist: if you are in the METCO program or have McKinney-Vento (homelessness) status, the Newton residency and occupancy requirements do not apply to you.

SSN and immigration status

Neither the district's own checklist nor its registration page mentions a Social Security number or immigration status: what is asked for is identity, age, residency, health and any prior school records. Let us be honest here: we could not read the fields inside the Aspen online form, so a question such as country of birth may appear. What you can rely on is state law and the 1982 decision in **Plyler v. Doe**: a district cannot require immigration status to enroll a child, and not having a government photo ID cannot block enrollment. Guidance from the Massachusetts Attorney General says schools should not collect documents containing passport information, visa information or Social Security numbers for enrollment purposes. If an official asks anyway, say it is not on the list, call the Welcome Center, and note who you spoke to.

English support and languages

- **How it starts:** if a language other than English is spoken at home, someone from the ELL team calls you after registration to book the child's language assessment.
- **How it is delivered:** the ELL program teaches English alongside the regular curriculum, every English learner is taught by ELL teachers assigned to that work, and the program exists at every school. The ELL office is elloffice@newton.k12.ma.us; 617-559-6043, 617-559-6141, 617-559-6138.
- **For Turkish:** the registration checklist is published in English, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole and Russian, and there is an "additional languages" folder, but we could not confirm a Turkish version and we found no Turkish-speaking liaison. The Welcome Center provides interpreter support by phone and email and newsletters are translated; ask for an interpreter when you book.

Moving within Newton, and transfers

- **If you move within Newton:** you file a Change of Address form with new proof of address. A family whose school zone changes can ask, on a "Continuation in Placement" form, for the child to stay at the current school.
- **Choosing a different school:** transfer requests from Newton residents are limited and granted only if there is space; the 2026-27 applications are closed. Late requests made after May 1 and before Labor Day are considered only once other placements are done, and the parent provides transportation.
- **A note on ZIP codes:** moving from Newtonville to Newton Highlands changes your ZIP code. Updating the school file is not enough; the USCIS report is due within 10 days as well.

NOTE FOR IMMIGRANTS

When you look for a home in Newton, look at which school the street belongs to, not at the village name. Four things make the preparation easier. First, have the birth certificate, immunization card and report cards you bring from Türkiye translated into English up front; the district accepts immunization and exam records from abroad. Second, proof of occupancy means two separate bills or account letters, both dated within the last 30 days, while the water bill arrives quarterly. Third, if your name is not on the lease, ask the Welcome Center for a Residency Affidavit. Fourth, remember that the physical exam is required at registration for kindergarten and that booking one can take time. There is no SSN on the list; if an official asks anyway, cite *Plyler v. Doe*.

Registration dates and the document list can change. Confirm them on the [NPS enrollment page](#) before you go. Information as of October 1, 2026.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN NEWTON

Have a question about your immigration status?

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