

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · OHIO

Ohio School Enrollment Guide 2026

The tuberculosis test that must be given in the United States, the ten-disease immunization list, the notarized residence affidavit, language services and the library card.

SHORT ANSWER

Start with the good news: the published document list for Columbus City Schools, the largest district in the state, has **no Social Security number on it** and asks for **no immigration document; a passport or an I-94** substitutes for a U.S. birth certificate. The bad news is one line long: the district requires a negative tuberculosis test **given in the United States**, so **a test done in Türkiye is not accepted**. That is a concrete errand for your first weeks and it is very easy to miss.

Where enrollment happens

Ohio has no single statewide enrollment portal; you enroll through the school district your address sits in, and **a district boundary is not the same as a city boundary**. Columbus City Schools publishes its own address lookup tool for exactly that reason: some Columbus addresses fall in other districts and some addresses outside Columbus fall inside the Columbus district. Look your address up once for both school district and tax, because **the same map also sets the school district income tax**. At Columbus City Schools the process runs like this: enrollment starts online through **SpeedyPass** and documents are uploaded to the online record, with a plain warning from the district that an application cannot be processed if the required documents are not uploaded. For in-person help, the **Central Enrollment Center, 430 Cleveland Ave., Columbus OH 43215**, weekdays 8:00 to 16:30, phone **614-365-4011**.

THE TUBERCULOSIS TEST MUST BE GIVEN IN THE UNITED STATES

This is the most expensive line on the district's document list: the negative tuberculosis test must have been **given in the United States**. No report you bring from Türkiye, however recent, satisfies it. Get the test as soon as you arrive, from a family physician or a community health center, and put the result in the enrollment file. This is not something to plan before the flight, but it belongs in the first week after you land, because enrollment does not advance without it.

Step by step

- 1 Look your address up in the district finder.** The city name on your mailing address does not tell you which district you are in.
- 2 Start the online enrollment and upload the documents.** The application is not processed until the documents are uploaded.
- 3 Get the tuberculosis test in the United States.** Add the result to the file.

- 4 **Have a physician transcribe the immunization record.** Bring the card from Türkiye, with an English translation if you can; gaps can be filled here.
- 5 **Ask for an interpreter.** Request telephone interpretation before you book the enrollment appointment, so one is ready at the first meeting.
- 6 **Arrange the English assessment.** Students whose first language is another language, or who often use another language at home, are assessed for English proficiency; the assessment is arranged at enrollment on **614-365-4011**.

The documents, as published

DOCUMENT	DETAIL
☐ Parent photo ID	The list does not say which IDs count
☐ Proof of the student's identity	A birth certificate; a passport showing date and place of birth ; a certified record of a religious ceremony; a certified hospital record; or a birth affidavit. The district FAQ also names an I-94 or a passport as an acceptable alternative
☐ Custody documentation	If applicable
☐ Proof of address	A current mortgage statement in the parent's name, a current gas, water or electric bill, a lease, the last two pay stubs showing name and address, an employer letter on company letterhead, or W-2 forms. Usually required to be dated within 30 to 60 days
☐ Negative tuberculosis test	Must have been given in the United States
☐ Immunization record	The ten-disease list below
☐ Previous school records	A withdrawal form, the most recent report card or a transcript
☐ Special education documents	An IEP, an evaluation report or a 504 plan, if any
☐ Additional for preschool	An Ohio Preschool Program application and proof of income

We put it this way and no more strongly: **the district's published list contains no Social Security number and no immigration document**, and neither the enrollment page nor the FAQ asks for them or asks about immigration status. We say the published list does not include them rather than the district may not ask, because we could not confirm that the state has published a prohibition.

Immunizations: ten diseases and a 14-day window

Section 3313.671 of the Ohio Revised Code requires protection against **ten vaccine-preventable diseases**: diphtheria, hepatitis B, measles, meningococcal disease (ACWY), mumps, pertussis, polio, rubella, tetanus and varicella. Within **14 days** of a student starting school they must be protected, in the process of becoming

protected, or hold an exemption. Ohio recognizes two exemptions: a **medical** exemption certified in writing by a physician, and **reasons of conscience, including religious convictions**, on a written statement from the parent. The state health department publishes a quick guide for parents (July 2026 edition) and a grade-by-grade summary table.

If you are staying with relatives or in unstable housing

- If you are living in a friend's or relative's home, there is a **Residence Affidavit** for families living together permanently; the affidavit must be **notarized** and the host must own the home.
 - If you are in a hotel, a shelter or doubled up with another family in unstable housing, the district's McKinney-Vento team enrolls you through **Project Connect, 614-365-5140**, and the usual proof of address is not required in that case.
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Language services for a Turkish-speaking parent

Let us state it as it stands: **Turkish appears in none of the languages the district names**. The Columbus City Schools English learner phone menu runs: Spanish (1), Somali (2), Nepali (3), Arabic (4), French (5), Swahili (6), English and all other languages (8). The district's library of translated documents is published in exactly those six languages. **There is no Turkish translation and no Turkish menu option**; the city's own website offers translation into thirteen languages and Turkish is not among those either. This is not bad news, it is the right expectation: **free telephone interpretation exists** and asking for it is your right. Choose the all other languages option and ask by phone for a Turkish interpreter. The service is centered at the **EL Language Assistance Center, 270 E. State St., Columbus OH 43215**, phone **614-365-8802**, weekdays 7:30 to 16:30. One distinction is worth keeping: the district's school for newly arrived teenagers, **Columbus Global Academy** (ages 11 to 21, newly arrived, beginning English), lists Türkiye among the more than 55 countries its students come from, but that is **a fact about countries, not a language service**.

The library card is the easiest door in the state

- The Columbus Metropolitan Library board policy says that any person or organization **residing in Ohio or established in Ohio** is eligible for a library card. Adults show photo ID at a branch for a full-access card, and the accepted IDs are listed one by one: **a driver's license, a state ID, a passport, a work ID, a school ID, a green card or a consular ID, or a credit card with a photograph**.
- The policy **does not ask for a Social Security number and does not ask for proof of address**, and it further tells staff to use appropriate discretion to issue a card in exceptional cases where not all of the criteria are met.
- **Apply from home** and you get a Web Only card number immediately: e-books, databases, meeting room bookings and holds. For physical books you need photo ID at a branch.
- **There is no minimum age for children**. If the child is not with you, acceptable proof of identity includes a birth certificate, a Social Security card, an insurance or benefits card, a child state ID, a recent report card, **or a green card or consular ID**; the SSN card is only one option among several and never the only route. A **Kids Card** does not even require a parent signature.

- A Columbus City Schools student's school ID number works directly as a library card (the **Success Card**) unless the parent opts out. Teachers, school staff and **parents who home-school** can get an Educator Card with an 80-item limit on proof of their work.
- Public libraries in Ohio are independent entities, so card rules vary from library to library. If you live in another city, ask about your own library's policy; what is common statewide is the **Ohio Digital Library** lending network your local card opens.

THREE THINGS TO DO BEFORE ENROLLMENT

- **Get the tuberculosis test in the United States.** The report you bring from Türkiye is not accepted.
- **Bring the immunization card** and have a physician transcribe it; you have 14 days from the start of school.
- **Put the library card in your first week.** It is an official transaction that asks for no proof of address and no SSN, it gives computer and internet access, and your child's school ID already works as a library card.

Enrollment and document requirements vary by school district; confirm them on your own district's page. Information as of October 6, 2026.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN OHIO

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients across Ohio, 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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