

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · ROCKVALE

School Enrollment in Rockvale: The Two Proofs of Residence Rule 2026

Because there is no city government there is no separate city school district either; the only district is the county district. But this district asks for two separate proofs of residence and the two cannot come from the same source.

SHORT ANSWER

The reassuring part first: **enrollment is not tied to immigration status**, and the state education department says so **in writing** in its own legal questions and answers document; the document asks the question outright and answers it with one word, **no**. **The district question is simple here:** because there is no city government there is no separate city school district, the only district is **Rutherford County Schools**, and **all three grade levels are in this settlement and carry its name**. **But this county has a strict rule of its own on enrollment documents: two separate proofs of residence** are required, **the two cannot come from the same source**, and **a post office box is not accepted**. **And let us draw one line up front: enrollment is open, a school scholarship is not.**

The state's own written answer

In the state education department's **back to school legal questions and answers** document the question is asked outright: may schools or local education agencies deny enrollment to undocumented immigrant children? **The answer is one word: no**. The document also gives the reason and cites **Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982)** by name and caption. The same answer states that enrollment cannot be denied because of a parent's or guardian's **actual or perceived citizenship or immigration status** either.

- **Federal privacy law prohibits requiring a Social Security number for school enrollment.** That is the state education department's own written sentence. **And we write what we measured exactly as it is:** the phrase Social Security number **does not appear at all** on this district's enrollment page.
- **Districts cannot require a specific document as proof of address**, and the same document says agencies should **not turn a student away over a missing document**.
- **Another state agency's text goes further:** if a school requests additional documents it must **immediately state that no document will be used in relation to immigration status**. **Go in knowing that sentence;** if you run into a problem at the counter, that is your ground.

Which school: all three levels are here, but your address decides

The only school district is **Rutherford County Schools**; the central address is **2240 Southpark Drive, Murfreesboro, TN 37128** and the phone is **615-893-5812**. **For an unincorporated settlement there is something worth noting:** all three levels are here and all three carry the settlement's name; **Rockvale**

Elementary from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade, **Rockvale Middle** from sixth through eighth, and **Rockvale High School** from ninth through twelfth.

But which school you attend is set by your address, not by the settlement's name. The district publishes its own **school zone map** and lets you look up a **bus route** by address; the transportation office is reached at **615-893-5815**. **Check the address on the map before you take a house;** in a rural area a school that looks close may fall in another zone.

Enrollment documents: this county's own list

Do not copy the list from another district; all three districts we measured this cycle turned out different from one another.

DOCUMENT	NOTE
☐ Custody document or court order	Only the custodial parent or legal guardian may enroll the child, and must show it. For a single parent bringing a child from Türkiye this is the item to settle in advance
☐ Two proofs of residence	They must show the parent's or guardian's name and the physical address of the home; in the district's own words a post office box is not accepted as proof of residence
☐ And the critical rule: the two cannot come from the same source	Two bills from the same utility count as the same source; a state vehicle registration and a property title also count as the same source. This rule hits a newcomer directly, because in a new home the documents have not accumulated yet
☐ Accepted proofs of residence	Mortgage statement (last sixty days), signed lease , property tax receipt paid within the last twelve months, current electric, water or gas bill for the service address (last sixty days), current bank statement (last thirty days), current pay stub (last thirty days), unexpired state driver license or state photo ID, and unexpired state vehicle registration or title (only one of those two)
☐ The student's birth certificate	Requested to verify name and age. In this state a birth certificate can be obtained from any of the ninety-five county health departments
☐ Immunization record on the state's own form	And here this county offers a concrete convenience: the county health department allows immunization records from outside the state to be uploaded and transfers them to the state certificate; the certificate can be emailed to the parent or picked up in person
☐ Verification	In its own words the district states that all documents are subject to verification

If you are new, the easiest pair is usually a signed lease plus a utility bill, because those count as separate sources. **If you arrived with an immunization card from abroad, make the county health department your first stop** and book the appointment weeks before enrollment day.

If you are staying with a relative: we could not find the procedure in this district

There is a gap we have to be honest about, and we do not carry neighboring counties' answers here. In the other two districts we measured this cycle, a **notarized affidavit of residence** was clearly defined for

families staying with a relative. **No such procedure was found on this district's enrollment page.**

- 1 We do not say there is none, we say we could not find it on the page.** If you have no bill or lease in your own name, **call the district before enrollment day** and explain your situation.
- 2 Have them name, one by one, the documents you can bring,** and confirm on that call that your two documents will not be counted as the same source.
- 3 Write down the date, the time and the name of the person you spoke with.**

Language: this cycle's most concrete translation item is here

Of the three districts we measured this cycle, this one states language access most plainly. The enrollment page is written **in two languages** and says **translation service is available**, giving a point of contact: the district's **English as a second language center**, phone **615-890-5728**. The staggered kindergarten start calendar is published **in three languages**: English, Spanish and **Arabic**. **There is no Turkish.**

DO NOT CONFUSE MACHINE TRANSLATION WITH A TRANSLATION SERVICE

- The district's site has an **automatic translation button** offering hundreds of languages. **That is machine translation, not the agency's own Turkish text.** Do not sign an official document based on a machine translation.
- The picture is the same statewide: **no Turkish material was found at any state agency** in this research. **We do not say there is none, we say research could not find any.**
- **The right move:** call the center above before enrollment day and ask **whether an interpreter can be arranged for your appointment. That the service exists is in writing; which languages it covers is a question to ask.**

Age and calendar

- **Kindergarten age:** under the state rule a child must be five years old **on or before August 15.**
- The district runs a **five day staggered start**; after enrollment the parent receives a chart showing which days the child will be at school during that period. **Plan your work around it**; the child may not be at school every day that first week.
- **Compulsory education** covers ages six through seventeen.
- **In the pre-kindergarten program**, applications received after a certain date have been placed on a **waiting list**; apply early for pre-kindergarten.

Enrollment and a school scholarship are SEPARATE things

We do not combine this distinction into one sentence, because combining it would make it wrong.

SUBJECT	STATUS
School enrollment	No enrollment law based on immigration status was enacted. The state education department's own answer is no , and it cites the constitutional ground by name and caption

SUBJECT	STATUS
School scholarship	A separate regime. Under the state's education scholarship law, a student who cannot establish lawful presence has their scholarship application denied , and the scholarship counts as a public benefit, which ties the verification and reporting chain to the scholarship application

The instruction for you is one sentence: enroll your child in school, **but talk to your lawyer before you apply for a scholarship.** Enrollment requires nothing of the kind.

TWO MORE NOTES

- **The public employer side is a separate item:** the school district is one of the largest employers in this county, and **public employers have been required since July 1, 2026 to use the federal employment verification system with no employee threshold.** So **if you apply for a job there, verification will certainly be run.** In the private sector the threshold is **thirty-five full-time employees under the same employer number.**
- **And an access note:** the county's official site **does not open from Türkiye;** it applies a country-level block. **That does not mean the site is down, it means we cannot read it from here,** and we do not write **there is none** about anything we could not read there. If you need someone in Türkiye to look at a form, **send them the downloaded file, not the page.**



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Have a question about your immigration status?

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