

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · SAN DIEGO

San Diego School Enrollment Guide 2026 (San Diego Unified)

Enrollment steps from Pre-K to high school, documents, TK and kindergarten age rules, vaccines and rights for immigrant families.

SHORT ANSWER

New students enroll in San Diego Unified School District through its enrollment portal (sandiegounified.org/Enrollment). You need proof of identity (a birth certificate or passport showing the parent's name), proof of residency no more than 6 months old (a utility bill, lease or mortgage document) and a current immunization record. No Social Security number or immigration-status question appears anywhere on the district's enrollment page. For Transitional Kindergarten (TK), a child must turn 4 on or before September 1, 2026, a statewide rule with no exceptions; for kindergarten, the child must turn 5. California accepts only a doctor's medical exemption for school vaccines.

Step by step

- 1 **Apply through San Diego Unified's enrollment portal.** sandiegounified.org/Enrollment. Contact your zoned school, or the school you are applying to.
- 2 **Bring proof of identity.** A birth certificate, baptismal certificate or passport showing the parent's name; a Turkish passport is accepted.
- 3 **Bring proof of residency.** A utility bill, lease, mortgage document or military housing order, no more than 6 months old. This is waived if the family is on a housing waitlist.
- 4 **Bring an immunization record.** Following the district's nursing guidelines.
- 5 **Complete the Home Language Survey.** If a language other than English is spoken at home, your child takes the ELPAC (English Language Proficiency Assessments for California) and is placed in an English-learner program based on the results.

Document checklist

DOCUMENT	NOTES
☐ Child's birth certificate, baptismal certificate or passport	Must show the parent's name; a Turkish passport is accepted.

DOCUMENT	NOTES
☐ Proof of residency	A utility bill, lease, mortgage document or military housing order, no more than 6 months old. A school cannot require a driver's license or voter registration as the only proof.
☐ Immunization record	Following California's standard childhood vaccine schedule; only a doctor's medical exemption is accepted.
☐ Social Security card	Not required. If you do not have an SSN or choose not to give it, your child is still enrolled.
☐ Proof of grade	A report card or transcript from a previous school, if available.

Age rules

LEVEL	RULE
Transitional Kindergarten (TK), 2026-27	Turn 4 on or before September 1, 2026; a state law with no local exceptions. TK is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program.
Kindergarten	Turn 5 on or before September 1, 2026

Vaccines

California ended the personal-belief exemption for school vaccines in 2016 (SB 277); only a licensed physician's medical exemption is accepted now. Have your child's Turkish vaccine record translated into English and reviewed by a U.S. doctor to avoid delays at enrollment.

Your rights as an immigrant family

PROTECTED BY LAW

- Every child living in the U.S. may attend public school regardless of immigration status (*Plyler v. Doe*, 1982).
- Schools may not ask about your or your child's immigration status; a Social Security number is never required to enroll.
- A school may not effectively block an undocumented parent from enrolling a child by demanding documents like a driver's license or voter registration as proof of residency (California Education Code section 48204.1).

Where to get help

OFFICE	CONTACT
San Diego Unified general enrollment information	sandiegounified.org/Enrollment

OFFICE**California Attorney General, educational rights guidance****CONTACT****"Know Your Educational Rights" at oag.ca.gov****TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN SAN DIEGO****Have a question about your immigration status?**

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in San Diego and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English.

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