

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · SAN JOSE

San Jose School Enrollment Guide 2026

First find the school district for your address. San Jose Unified enrollment steps, documents, TK and kindergarten age rules, vaccines and rights for immigrant families.

SHORT ANSWER

San Jose does not have a single public school district: San Jose Unified School District (SJUSD) covers only part of the city, and other addresses belong to other districts. Because the district decides where and how you enroll, start by entering your home address in the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) school district locator. If your address is in SJUSD, you enroll at the Enrollment Center at 855 Lenzen Avenue or online. According to SJUSD's own guidance, immigration status and a Social Security number are never needed for enrollment. For Transitional Kindergarten (TK), a child must turn 4 on or before September 1; for kindergarten, the child must turn 5. California accepts only a doctor's medical exemption for school vaccines.

Step by step

- 1 Find your school district by address.** Several separate districts share San Jose, and the county has 31 districts in all. Enter your address in the [SCCOE school district locator](#). For high school, East Side Union High School District (ESUHSD) covers many east and south San Jose addresses; confirm with the locator.
- 2 Read your district's enrollment page.** For SJUSD: sjusd.org/enrollment. If you are in another district, prepare from the document list on that district's own site.
- 3 Gather your documents.** A government-issued photo ID for the parent or guardian, proof of the child's age, proof of residence and immunization records (see the checklist below).
- 4 Submit your application.** SJUSD's online application is at go.sjusd.org/enrollonline, with documents uploaded. If you prefer to go in person, the Enrollment Center serves people first come, first served, and staff help submit the online application.
- 5 Wait for the confirmation email.** Enrollment is not complete until all documents are provided and the confirmation email arrives. Processing takes a few days in the low seasons (fall, spring) and up to several weeks in winter and summer.
- 6 Check the age rule for TK or kindergarten** (see the table below). SJUSD enrolls year-round; enrollment for the next school year opens the first week of December.

San Jose Unified Enrollment Center

ITEM	DETAILS
Address	855 Lenzen Avenue, Room 106, San Jose, CA 95126
Phone	(408) 535-6412
Hours	Monday and Wednesday to Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Online	go.sjUSD.org/enrollonline

SJUSD requires the student to live with a parent or guardian inside the district boundaries. If your neighborhood school is full, the child may be placed at the nearest other school and put on a waitlist for the neighborhood school; to stay at the neighborhood school you would need an intradistrict transfer. Official page: [SJUSD enrollment page](#).

Document checklist

DOCUMENT	NOTES
☐ Parent or guardian government-issued photo ID	If the parent's name is not on the birth certificate, guardianship paperwork may also be needed.
☐ Proof of the child's age	A birth certificate or hospital record, for example. Check your district's current list to see whether a Turkish passport or birth certificate is accepted.
☐ Proof of residence	A utility bill, lease or homeowner's or renter's insurance, for example. A school cannot require a driver's license or voter registration as the only proof of residency.
☐ Court orders	Custody or educational rights orders, if any.
☐ Immunization record	Requested at enrollment; California's standard childhood vaccine schedule applies, and 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.

The document list changes from time to time. SJUSD's requirement sheet is published in English and Spanish; see the latest on the [SJUSD page](#).

Age rules

LEVEL	RULE
Transitional Kindergarten (TK), 2026-27	Turn 4 on or before September 1, 2026 (birthdate September 2, 2021 to September 1, 2022); 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, a stricter rule than Texas's conscientious-objector exemption. 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

- According to SJUSD's own guide for immigrant students and families, immigration status and a Social Security number are never needed to enroll, and a variety of documents are accepted as proof of age and residence.
- Every child living in the U.S. may attend public school regardless of immigration status (*Plyler v. Doe*, 1982).
- According to the California Attorney General's guidance, a Social Security number is never needed for school enrollment.
- 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 address (California Education Code section 48204.1).

Where to get help

OFFICE	CONTACT
SJUSD Enrollment Center	855 Lenzen Ave, Room 106 · (408) 535-6412 · sjusd.org/enrollment
Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE), district locator	1290 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95131 · (408) 453-6500 · sccoe.org
East Side Union High School District (ESUHSd)	830 N. Capitol Ave, San Jose, CA 95133 · (408) 347-5000 · esuhsd.org
San Jose 311 (city services)	311 (inside the city) or (408) 535-3500



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN SAN JOSE

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in San Jose and the surrounding area, 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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