

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · SOUTH CAROLINA

Enrolling a Child in School in South Carolina: 2026 Guide

A passport is accepted as proof of age and the published list asks for no Social Security number. But you have to visit a notary before you enroll.

SHORT ANSWER

First the right door: the school district is not the town's, it is **a single county-wide district**, so a Mount Pleasant address is automatically that district's address. The good news: **the district's published document list asks for no Social Security number** and **a passport is accepted by name** as proof of age. The surprise is elsewhere: the district requires a **notarized affidavit of residency**, which means the family must stop at a notary before enrolling, and learning that at the school costs a day. On language, the honest answer: the language the district actually produces documents in is **Spanish; we found nothing published in Turkish**, though the district runs a free translation office and you should file that request before enrollment day.

SET THE CHAIN UP FRONT: UTILITY ACCOUNT FIRST, SCHOOL SECOND

- The district's document list asks for **two categories**, and the second category **names utility bills**: electric or gas, water, landline telephone, cable television or internet. So a newcomer family that cannot open an account in its own name loses the easiest document.
- What is left is a **pay stub** or an **agency correspondence**, and neither may be in your hands in the first weeks. So the order is: **utility account first, school enrollment second**.
- **And the answer to the utility question depends on your street address**. In this state four separate utility regimes run side by side and which one you are in is set by the address, not the city; the detail is in the moving checklist guide.
- **A district boundary is not a city boundary**. Confirm which school you are assigned to in the district's own school locator **before you sign a lease**.

Which district, and where

The school district is **Charleston County School District** and it is county-wide; the town has no school district of its own. The district office is at **75 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC 29401**, phone **843-937-6300**, language requests **843-937-6359**. Among the schools the district names in Mount Pleasant are Moultrie Middle School, Thomas C. Cario Middle School, Wando High School, Lucy G. Beckham High School and East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies. Age cutoffs in the district's own words: for the four-year-old early development program, age **4 on or before September 1**; kindergarten, **5**; first grade, **6**.

Documents requested, from the district's own list

ITEM	WHAT IS ACCEPTED
Proof of age	Birth certificate, passport (the page with name and date of birth), a hospital or physician record showing date of birth, adoption records, a driver license or learner permit. For children of U.S. citizen parents born abroad, any official document issued by a U.S. federal agency or service is accepted. And an exit door: if you cannot produce any of these, call the school where enrollment will take place
Immunization	The child's South Carolina certificate of immunization . For a copy the district points to the state health agency, and for nationwide records to a federal agency's contact list
Notarized affidavit of residency	The district publishes this both as an English-only form and as a combined English and Spanish form; alongside it there is a separate residency verification requirements page, also published in Spanish
One document from category one	A signed and dated current lease ; the most recent real property tax statement ; a copy of an accepted purchase contract showing the closing date; or a copy of an accepted construction contract
One document from category two	An electric or gas bill ; a water bill ; a landline telephone bill (not a cell phone); a cable television or internet bill ; a vehicle registration (not a driver license); a pay stub showing the employer's name and the parent's name and address; or a local, state or federal agency correspondence showing the parent's name and address. The district's condition: every document must carry the current, correct address at the time of enrollment
Parent identification	In the district's words, a valid photo identification, including a government-issued driver license or passport
Social Security number	Not requested on the published document list. We read the whole list
Insurance or benefit number	The "Medicaid number or insurance number, if any" field on the enrollment form is optional in its own words ; it can be left blank

Enrollment mechanics

- New students complete the district's **online new student registration form** and may upload documents; creating an account requires a valid email address or cell phone number.
- Accepted early childhood students and choice, transfer or development program students receive a link and a **registration code** by email. Returning students re-enroll each year through the parent portal.
- The district's warning is plain: **your child is not officially enrolled until the registration process is complete and all requested documents have reached the school**, whether uploaded or delivered in person.
- The form also asks for the previous school, **two additional emergency contacts** in case parents cannot be reached, the name and phone number of a physician and a dentist, and the optional insurance number above.
- **A source note:** we read this paragraph through the official domain rather than from the district's registration page itself, so we carry it as **highly likely rather than settled**.

THE NOTARY STEP IS NEW IN THIS SERIES AND ADDS A STOP FOR THE FAMILY

- The affidavit of residency must be **notarized**. So a stop at a notary before you go to the school is required; learning it at the enrollment desk costs a day.
- A notarization is not an apostille and does not include an apostille fee; **what is required here is only the witnessing of your signature**. If you have an account at a bank, that is usually the easiest place to get it done; call first.
- Take the form **unsigned** and sign it in front of the notary, because the notary certifies a signature made in their presence.
- Bring **photo identification**. If you do not have your license yet, confirm with the notary in advance whether your passport is accepted.

Language: we say it plainly, there is no Turkish

The district runs a **multilingual services department** under its chief academic office, and within it an **office of translation and interpretation**. The office's own statement: the district is committed to giving all parents of its multilingual learners **free** access to essential school information. Requests go to languagerequests@charleston.k12.sc.us or to **843-937-6359**; we read these lines from an official domain summary because the office's own page would not open, so we carry them as **highly likely rather than settled**. By contrast, **the language the district actually produces documents in is Spanish**, and we verified that from published material: the registration pages have a Spanish version, the affidavit of residency is published as a combined English and Spanish form, and the residency verification requirements page is published in Spanish. **Research found no trace of anything the district publishes in Turkish**. So do not expect a Turkish form or brochure; your route runs through the translation request above, and you should file it **before enrollment day**. The district's nondiscrimination notice covers **race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age and other statuses protected by federal or state law**.

- 1 Settle the address.** Confirm the assigned school in the district's school locator before you sign a lease; a district boundary is not a city boundary.
- 2 Open a utility account in your own name.** Category two names utility bills; without one you are down to a pay stub or an agency letter.
- 3 Visit a notary** and sign the affidavit of residency in their presence.
- 4 Prepare the passport as proof of age.** The list names it, so you do not need to hunt for a birth certificate.
- 5 Handle the immunization file in your first weeks.** Get an English record of the card you brought from Türkiye transferred onto the state certificate.
- 6 Get the transcript before you leave Türkiye.** For a high-school-age child, request the transcript and course descriptions from the school there; it is far harder afterward.
- 7 File the language request at 843-937-6359 before enrollment day** and ask for written confirmation.
- 8 Know that you may leave the insurance number blank;** the form itself calls that field optional.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

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