

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · WEST SPRINGFIELD

West Springfield School Enrollment Guide 2026 (The Town Has Its Own District)

You are not in the Springfield district. PowerSchool registration online, the Central Enrollment appointment, the documents, neighborhood schools and the SSN question.

SHORT ANSWER

The town has its own district: **West Springfield Public Schools (WSPS)**, central office 11 Central Street, 413-263-3289. **You are not in the Springfield district.** Registration is online through PowerSchool and in-person work is by appointment: Central Enrollment 413-263-3388, centralenroll@wsps.org. The enrollment pages we read list no SSN field and no immigration-status question, and a passport is accepted as parent ID. Schools are assigned **by address**, so you have to ask which school a street belongs to before you take a home.

Which school? The neighborhood model

In our Cambridge guide we described a system where families rank the schools. It is not like that here: the WSPS site carries a District Boundary Map page and the assignment goes by address. We could not open that page, so we could not verify exactly how the assignment works or what the exceptions are, which is why you should **ask which school an address belongs to at 413-263-3289 before you take a home**. The practical consequence: unlike Cambridge, the school zone really is a line item when you look for a place here.

The schools: John Ashley School, John R. Fausey Elementary, Memorial Elementary, Philip G. Coburn Elementary, Tatham Elementary, West Springfield Middle School, West Springfield High School, and Cowing Early Childhood for preschool.

How to register, step by step

- 1 Open the online registration.** For 2026-27 it runs through [PowerSchool Registration](#); you need an email account and a scanner or a phone camera to upload documents. **The portal is in English and Spanish; there is no Turkish.**
- 2 Book an appointment for in-person work.** The Central Enrollment Office takes registrations by appointment and answers enrollment questions: 413-263-3388, centralenroll@wsps.org, registrar Triny Vargas (tvargas@wsps.org).

- 3 **Confirm the address.** Sources conflict over whether the appointment is at the central office at 11 Central Street or on the first floor of the town building at 26 Central Street. Both are in the town center but they are not the same building: call 413-263-3388 and confirm before you go.
- 4 **Prepare the documents.** The list below is what is asked for.
- 5 **Fill in the language survey.** If a language other than English is named, a newly enrolled student is screened in English listening, speaking, reading and writing.

THE LOCAL TRAP: TWO DIFFERENT ADDRESSES

Two numbers circulate for where you go to register in this town: the school district central office at **11 Central Street** and the town building at **26 Central Street**. Sources conflict over which hosts the appointment, and they are not the same building. One call (413-263-3388) saves a second trip into the town center. The same care applies to the date: the district asked for 2026-27 registrations to be submitted by **Friday, August 14, 2026** so that files would be ready for the first day; later registrations are still accepted but the paperwork may not be ready on day one. If you moved mid-year, apply straight away anyway.

Document checklist

DOCUMENT	DETAIL
☐ The child's identity	A birth certificate, a passport or an I-94. If the name has changed, a Change of Name Decree is asked for
☐ Proof of residency	A copy of the deed, a mortgage statement, a lease, a notarized statement from the landlord or a Section 8 agreement
☐ Proof of occupancy (last 30 days)	A utility bill, an insurance policy or a tax document. Here the water comes on the town's own cycle, so the Eversource bill is the easiest option
☐ Parent ID	A valid license, a government ID or a passport
☐ Health	Current immunization records, a physical exam signed by a physician within the last 12 months, and lead screening for preschool and kindergarten
☐ School history	Records from the previous school and any special education documents

SSN and immigration status

The enrollment pages we read contain no Social Security number field and no immigration status question. But let us be honest: we could not open the PowerSchool form itself, so we do not know whether it has an optional SSN field and we make no promise that the form does not ask. The state rule is clear: a school district cannot require an SSN to enroll a child and not having a government photo ID cannot block enrollment; you can rely on state law, the Attorney General's guidance to schools and the 1982 decision in **Plyler v. Doe**. If an official asks for an SSN anyway, say you do not have one, ask for the registration to continue, and note who you spoke to.

Age and preschool

- **Age:** five by September 1 for kindergarten, six for first grade.
- **Preschool:** there are two options. For children aged three and up who are toilet trained, a half-day peer class and a full-day program with transportation; preschool registration runs on a **separate form**.
- **Students who are homeless or in foster care:** the Educational Stability Coordinator responsible for McKinney-Vento rights is Jill Fijal, 413-263-3289. The page sets out the rights but does not detail enrollment without documents, so call directly if that is your situation.

English support, but not in Turkish

- **How it starts:** every family fills in the Home Language Survey. When a language other than English is named, a newly enrolled student is screened in English listening, speaking, reading and writing.
- **Services:** ESL teachers, small groups, individual plans, progress monitoring and interpreter access for all language needs. There is an ESL teacher at the high school, the middle school, Coburn and every elementary school. Exit from the program is decided on ACCESS for ELLs results, grade-level performance and teacher judgment.
- **Who to contact:** the department is Multilingual Learner Education; director Sharlene DeSteph (desteph@wsps.org), phone 413-495-1750 or 413-495-1855.
- **The family liaison:** the department's Family Liaison is Morad Majjad (mmajjad@wsps.org), who speaks Arabic, Spanish and French. **Turkish is not on that list**, so we do not write as though Turkish support exists. Ask for an interpreter by phone when you book or at a parent meeting; the department says it has interpreter access for all language needs.
- **Parent involvement:** there is an English Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC) and a Seal of Biliteracy program. The registration and department pages are translated into Spanish and traditional Chinese, with no Turkish.

NOTE FOR IMMIGRANTS

In the Cambridge guide we wrote "do not calculate school districts when you look for a home"; here we say the opposite. Because WSPS uses the neighborhood model, ask at 413-263-3289 which school an address belongs to before you take a home. Four things make the preparation easier. First, have the birth certificate, immunization card and report cards you bring from Türkiye translated into English up front; the form asks for the child's birth certificate, passport or I-94. Second, a proof of occupancy dated within the last 30 days is required, so keep your electricity bill or your lease ready. Third, a physical exam from the last 12 months is required; if the exam you had in Türkiye is not accepted, getting an appointment can take time, so start early. Fourth, there is no Turkish-speaking family liaison: ask for an interpreter at the registration meeting and take a written list of questions if you need to. One last point: the enrollment pages contain no SSN question, but we could not read the online form; if an SSN is asked for anywhere, say you do not have one and ask for the registration to continue.

Registration dates and the document list can change. Confirm them on the [WSPS enrollment page](#) before you go. Information as of October 1, 2026.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN WEST SPRINGFIELD

Have a question about your immigration status?

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