

### What documents are needed to enroll a child in school?

- Immunization Records
- Birth Certificate / Passport / Baptismal Certificate
- Proof of Residency\* - can include:
  - Utility bills (gas, electric, water)
  - Lease agreements, escrow papers, or property tax bill

*\* If you do not have these documents, someone at the school can help you find other ways to show where you live.*

### If your family lives in any of the following:

- Motel or campground due to lack of adequate accommodations
- Car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station
- Doubled up with other families due to economic hardship

*Your school-aged child may qualify for certain rights and protections under the Federal McKinney-Vento Act.*

### If so, an eligible child has the right to:

- Receive a free, appropriate public education
- Enroll in school **immediately**, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment
- Enroll in school and attend classes while the school gathers needed documents

By law, a child between 6 and 18 years of age must be enrolled in school. All children, regardless of immigration status, have the right to a free, appropriate public education in the United States.

California law does not allow schools to ask for or collect information regarding student or family immigration status. Public schools in California are considered safe and protected spaces for all students.

School calendars vary by school district. Most schools in Los Angeles County start the school year sometime in August and end in June. Be sure to check with your local school district to see when your child is due to start school.

### Are you having difficulty enrolling your child in school? And/or do you have additional questions?

#### Please contact:

Fredy Ruiz  
Immigrant Relations Coordinator  
(562) 922-6159  
[Ruiz\\_Fredy@lacoed.edu](mailto:Ruiz_Fredy@lacoed.edu)

#### Or:

Student Support Services  
(562) 922-6223



**Los Angeles County  
Office of Education**

Student Support Services

# Enrolling Your Child in School

## Information for Parents, Legal Guardians and Caregivers New to the U.S.



**Los Angeles County  
Office of Education**

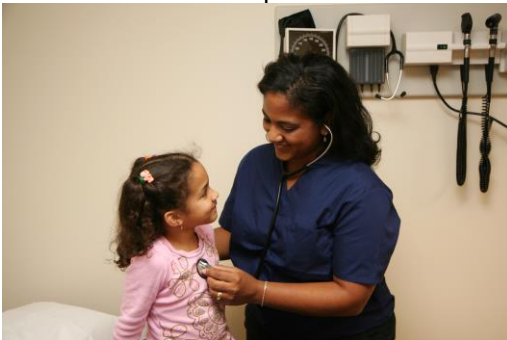
Los Angeles County is home to 80 different public school districts. To find out which school district you belong to and locate your local school, please visit:

<https://www.greatschools.org/school-district-boundaries-map/>

### IMMUNIZATIONS:

California law requires children to be immunized. Students entering school must show proof of the following immunizations:

- Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus (DPT)
- Polio
- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (chickenpox)
  - All students must also show proof



For information on where you can get free or low-cost immunizations, please call the Public Health Department at (213) 351-7800 or go to:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/clinics/index.htm>

### DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS?

Your child may be eligible to receive specialized education services or accommodations at school. The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law that requires public schools to provide special education services to children ages 3 to 21 who meet certain criteria. A child younger than 3 can get help through IDEA's early intervention services.

To qualify for special education services, a student must:

- Have a documented disability that is covered by IDEA, and needs special education to access the general education curriculum.

### SECTION 504 PLAN:

Many students have conditions or disorders that are not readily apparent to others. They may include conditions such as specific learning disabilities or severe health issues. If a chronic condition substantially limits a child's ability to receive an appropriate education they may be considered to have an "impairment" and qualify for a section 504 plan. The plan will provide specific supports or services at school that can help the student be successful.

Public schools can provide a comprehensive assessment of your child at no cost if there are signs of an impairment or disability. Please ask your child's school for more information.

### NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM:

All schools have a cafeteria where students can enjoy a hot meal at lunchtime. Some schools may also offer a breakfast and snack program. Your child may be eligible to receive free or low-cost meals at school.

The National School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal program. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost, or free lunches to children in need each school day. This program is offered to low-income families that meet the income requirements.

Schools send school meal applications home at the beginning of each school year. However, you may apply for school meals at any time during the school year by submitting an application directly to your school or district. You must submit a completed application to use the program.

**You do not need a social security number or legal status to enroll in the program. The use of this program will not affect your ability to change your immigration status.**

