

## Attending Schools in the United States

*“Attending Schools in the United States” is the second topic in the English Learner Family Tool Kit. This tool kit is meant to support families of English learners (ELs) in the U.S. education system. Each topic has five parts: (1) Overview, (2) Family and Student Rights (3) Questions to Ask School Staff, (4) Tips, and (5) Resources.*

### Suggested Questions to Ask School Staff

The following are sample, optional questions you may ask school staff to help regarding attending school:

1. How do I find out what school my child will attend?
2. Who do I ask to provide me with an interpreter when I go to the school?
3. How old does my child have to be to start preschool or kindergarten in my state?
4. What is the maximum age under which I can still enroll my child in high school in my state?
5. Does the school require a uniform? What if I cannot afford to buy the uniform?
6. Who is my child’s guidance counselor, and what is this person’s contact information?
7. What does my child eat for lunch? When does my child eat lunch? Where does my child eat lunch? What are the rules for lunch? Do I pay for the lunch?
8. Can you explain the attendance policy? How should I tell the school my child will be absent?
9. What will happen if my child must miss school?
10. My child was in \_\_\_\_ grade in their previous school. Will my child be in that same grade at this school?
11. What is expected of my child and me when it comes to homework?
12. If there is homework in my child’s grade, what help can we receive if my child can’t complete the homework?
13. Is there someone in the school who works with families?
14. Does this school have a family-teacher organization? If so, how do I join?

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