Enrolling Your Child in School

“Enrolling Your Child in School” is the first 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. Information varies for each topic, though some information may be repeated.

Suggested Questions to Ask School Staff

The following are sample, optional questions you may ask school staff to help you to enroll your child in school:

1. Who can help me enroll my child in school?
2. Will my child’s siblings enroll in this school?
3. What documents must I bring to school or the district office to enroll my child?
4. A minor relative is living with me, and I am not the legal guardian of that child. The child’s parents are not living with the child. Can I enroll the child in my local district?
5. Can I get materials translated and an interpreter to help me talk with school staff?
6. What is the deadline for providing the required documents and/or for getting any required vaccinations?
7. What time does school start and end?
8. How does my child get to school? Do I have to pay for transportation services? Where can I find information on bus routes and bus stops, and how can I find out if the bus is delayed?
9. My child needs help learning English. How can I be sure that my child receives services to help him or her learn English?
10. What supplies does my child need for school?
11. Does the school have before- and after-school day care for my child?
12. How can I enroll my child in after-school activities or in an after-care program (for elementary school children)?
13. Is there a public preschool program for my 4-year-old child? If so, how can I obtain information about that program?
14. What information about my child will the school share with people outside of the school?
15. My child will be in high school. How can I get information about graduation requirements?
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