

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.

Tips for Families

- Do not sign any paperwork until you understand the information and agree to what is being asked of you.
- If possible, take a parent or guardian whose child already attends your school with you to enroll your child.
- If possible, visit your school and district websites to see what information is available to help you prepare for enrolling your child.
- Ask for a school calendar and information about when the school opens late and closes early.
- Sometimes families must pay for the child’s breakfast or lunch, school supplies, and before- and after-school activities. Ask the school if you must pay for these things or if the school can provide you with financial assistance, if needed.
- Sometimes schools close due to holidays, teacher workdays, bad weather, or other unexpected events. Schools let families know about these events in several ways, such as sending text or email alerts or broadcasting it on the local news or radio stations. Ask how you can expect to receive this critical information.

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