

## **Education**

All children have a right to enroll in school, regardless of immigration status.

All children who are 4 years old on or before December 1st of the year in which they would enter school have the right to attend pre-kindergarten in New York City.

Students have a right to attend school until the end of the school year in which they turn 21 years old.

Children *must* attend school from age 6 until the end of the school year in which he or she turns 17. If children under 17 do not attend school then law enforcement officers may become involved.

In New York City, students who are determined to be English Language Learners have the right to enroll in an ELL program at their public school. For more information, see the section on English-language education and literacy programs.

## **Public School Enrollment**

### **Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Enrollment**

New York City provides free pre-kindergarten for all children who are 4 years old on or before December 1st of the year in which they would begin pre-kindergarten.

To find a pre-kindergarten program near you and to enroll, visit [nyc.gov/upk](http://nyc.gov/upk), text “prek” to 877877, or call 311 and ask about pre-kindergarten.

### **Elementary and Middle School Enrollment**

All students in grades K – 8, including those with an Individualized

Education Program (IEP) and/or who require special education services, can be enrolled in just a few steps.

#### 1. Find Your Zoned School

- A zoned school is a neighborhood school for all students who live in a designated area.
- A zoned school is determined by your home address.
- Find a zoned school by entering the home address of the child in the [school search tool](#) or calling 311. All enrollment materials are available in English and Spanish, and 311 can provide over-the-phone interpretation services in over 170 languages.
- If there is no zoned school for the address given, the family can visit an Enrollment Office (see a list of these offices below) with the required documentation (see required documentation list below). A counselor will place the child at the closest school to his or her home that has available seats.

#### 2. Go to the Zoned or Assigned School to Enroll

- Go to the zoned school or the school to which the child has been assigned by the Enrollment Office.
- Families should be sure to bring the required documentation with them, if available. See below for the list of documents.

### **High School Enrollment**

All new students in grades 9 through 12, including those with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and/or who require special education services, must register at an Enrollment Office (see below for a list of offices). An enrollment counselor will help them find a school. High schools in New York City are not zoned, so enrollment follows a different process than the one mentioned above for elementary and middle schools.

New students ages 17-21 who have recently arrived in the United States are eligible for traditional schooling as well as alternative schools and programs through the Department of Education's District 79. Families may visit Referral Centers for High School Alternatives to learn about high school options.

[Learn more about District 79](#)

### **What to Bring and Required Documents**

Families should bring the following documentation and proof of residency with them when enrolling in a NYC public school. However, children and families who do not have these required documents still have the right to enroll in school. After enrollment, the school can help locate the appropriate records and refer children for immunization.

Caretakers should bring the child/children with them when registering.

Documents:

- Child's birth certificate or passport as proof of age
- Immunization records (see the section on immunizations)
- Latest report card/transcript (if available)
- Individualized Education Program (IEP) and/or 504 Accommodation Plan (if applicable and available)
- Required Proof of NYC Residence (any two of the following):
  - Utility bill (gas or electric) for the residence issued by National Grid (formerly Keyspan), Con Edison, or the Long Island Power Authority (for the Rockaways); must be dated within the past 60 days
  - Water bill for the residence; must be dated within the past 90 days
  - Original lease agreement, deed, or mortgage statement for the residence
    - If you are not the leaseholder of your residence, you must submit a Residency Affidavit (see Chancellor's Regulation A-101, page 20).

- Current property tax bill for the residence
- Official payroll document from an employer (example: payroll receipt); must be dated within the past 60 days
- Document or letter from a federal, state, or local government agency indicating the resident's name and address (example: document from Internal Revenue Service (IRS), City Housing Authority, the Administration for Children's Services (ACS)); must be dated within the past 60 days

NOTE: Even if you do not have these documents, your child still has the right to enroll in school. After enrollment, the school can help locate the appropriate records.

## **Enrollment Offices**

### **Bronx**

1 Fordham Plaza, 7th Floor  
Bronx, NY 10458  
(718) 935-2178  
Districts Served: 7, 9, 10

1230 Zerega Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10462  
(718) 935-2278  
Districts Served: 8, 11, 12

### **Brooklyn**

1780 Ocean Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11230  
(718) 935-2313  
Districts Served: 17, 18, 22 415

29 Fort Greene Place, BE12  
Brooklyn, NY 11217  
(718) 935-2371  
Districts Served: 13, 14, 15, 16  
General Education Only

415 89th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11209  
(718) 935-2331  
Districts Served: 20, 21

131 Livingston Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(718) 935-4908  
Districts Served: 13, 14, 15, 16  
Special Education Only

1665 St. Mark's Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11233  
(718) 935-2340

Districts Served: 19, 23, 32

### **Manhattan**

333 Seventh Avenue, 12th Floor  
New York, NY 10001  
(718) 935-2383  
Districts Served: 1, 2, 4

388 West 125th Street, 7th Floor  
New York, NY 10027  
(718) 935-2385  
Districts Served: 3, 5, 6

### **Queens**

28-11 Queens Plaza North  
Long Island City, NY 11101  
(718) 935-2386  
Districts Served: 24, 30

90-27 Sutphin Boulevard  
Jamaica, NY 11435  
(718) 935-2393  
Districts Served: 27, 28, 29

30-48 Linden Place  
Flushing, NY 11354  
(718) 935-2391  
Districts Served: 25, 26

### **Staten Island**

715 Ocean Terrace, Building A  
Staten Island, NY 10301  
(718) 935-2402  
District Served: 31

## **English Language Learners Education**

### **Support for English Language Learners in Public Schools**

In New York City, students who are determined to be English Language Learners (ELLs) are provided with the following ELL program options:

- Bilingual programs (Transitional Bilingual Education and Dual Language) that strengthen students' native language development and content knowledge while they build their social and academic English skills.

- English as a Second Language (ESL) programs that use strategies for English language development with native language support so that students develop language and content knowledge in English.

For additional information and for help enrolling a child in these services, contact the Department of English Language Learners and Student Support at (212) 374-6072 or [DELLSS@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:DELLSS@schools.nyc.gov).

### **Non-Profit Resources**

Catholic Charities Community Services' International Center is a community of learners—a “home away from home”—for New York’s newcomers. The International Center is staffed by over 200 volunteers and offers over 40 weekly classes and courses in English language and American culture, including one-on-one conversation partnerships. The Center serves hundreds of newcomers each year. Young people, documented and undocumented alike, receive the help they need to overcome cultural and linguistic barriers and build their capacity to better participate in civic and economic life. For more information, contact [Elaine.Roberts@archny.org](mailto:Elaine.Roberts@archny.org).

### **Adult Education Programs**

For adult immigrants or those who have already completed school, other services may be available through the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). To learn more about these options, call (800) 246-4646.

The New York City Department of Education Office of Adult and Continuing Education (O.A.C.E) is the largest provider of adult literacy education services in the state. They offer over 900 classes for adults age 21 and over. Students can take classes at any of the sites, regardless of which borough they live in.

[Learn more about these adult education programs](#)

## **High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED)**

All New Yorkers 19 years of age or older who do not have a high school diploma can take an exam to receive a High School Equivalency Diploma (formerly called GED, and now called Test Assessing Secondary Completion, or TASC). The TASC test is free of charge to all New Yorkers and is offered in English and Spanish.

[Learn more about the HSED](#)

The DOE offers free TASC preparation courses. New students ages 17-21 may enroll in Pathways to Graduation, a full-time high school equivalency program that provides instruction in all five sections of the TASC (reading, writing, math, science, and social studies). Pathways to Graduation also offers ESL and Spanish bilingual instruction, college and career planning support, and paid internship opportunities. Eligible students may enroll in the Pathways to Graduation program by visiting one of the Referral Centers for High School Alternatives listed below.

### **Referral Centers for High School Alternatives**

#### **Bronx**

1010 Reverend James A. Polite Ave., Room 436  
Bronx, NY 10459  
(718) 842-9200

#### **Brooklyn**

832 Marcy Ave., 2nd Floor Library  
Brooklyn, NY 11216  
(718) 636-5770  
69 Schermerhorn Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(718) 935-9457

#### **Manhattan**

269 West 35th Street (at Eighth Ave.)

11th Floor  
New York, NY 10001  
(212) 244-1274

### **Queens**

162-02 Hillside Ave.  
Jamaica, NY 11432  
(718)739-2100

### **Staten Island**

450 St. Marks Place  
Staten Island, NY 10301  
(718) 273-3225

Individuals older than 21 can register for classes by contacting the Office of Adult and Continuing Education at (718) 638-2635 or [OACE@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:OACE@schools.nyc.gov). Over-the-phone interpretation services are available in over 200 languages.

### **After School and Community Services**

The NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) supports New York City youth and their families by funding a wide range of high-quality youth and community development programs, including:

- The Comprehensive After School System of NYC (COMPASS NYC)
- Beacon Community Centers
- Cornerstone Community Centers
- Fatherhood Initiative
- Immigration services
- Jobs and Internships for Youth
- Literacy Programs for Adults and Adolescents
- Runaway and Homeless Youth services
- Summer Youth Employment Program

To learn more about these programs or to find one in your community, call (800) 246-4646, Monday through Friday, for help in over 180 languages.

### **Additional Assistance**

For assistance with New York City education issues, contact the Department of English Language Learners and Student Support at (212) 374-6072 or DELLSS@schools.nyc.gov. Over-the-phone interpretation services are available in over 200 languages. In addition, written translation support is available in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu.

[Learn more about ELL services](#)