

## KENTUCKY EDUCATION RESOURCES

### Enrollment

- Every child in Kentucky has the **right to attend** his or her in-boundary public school, **regardless of immigration status**.
- Kentucky law requires children between 6 and 18 years old to attend school. **Kindergarten** birthday cutoff for enrolling is **age 5 on or before Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>**. **Preschool** cutoff is **age 4 on or before Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>** (if income-eligible). Three- and 4-year-olds who have a special need may also apply for preschool program.
- All states and the District of Columbia must **identify, locate, and evaluate** all children suspected of having a disability from birth to age 22 regardless of whether they attend a public school.
- **Age 0-3 Early Intervention** programs (First Steps) provides services in the home or other natural setting for children with special needs.

### Language Services

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974 require schools and districts to ensure English Language Learning (ELL) students have opportunities to participate equally in educational programs. Federal law requires the school district to provide interpreters and written documentation in the families' home language. Schools must communicate information to limited English proficient parents in a language they can understand about any program, service, or activity that is called to the attention of parents who are proficient in English.

### Bullying

Bullying is an increasingly prevalent problem at all levels of schooling. Immigrant children, specially the newly arrived, are more vulnerable to bullying. "Immigrant bullying" has been defined as "bullying that targets another's immigrant status or family history of immigration in the form of taunts and slurs, derogatory references to the immigration process, physical aggression, social manipulation, or exclusion because of immigration status. *Scherr, T. G., & Larson, J. (2010). Bullying dynamics associated with race, ethnicity, and immigration status. In S. R. Jimerson, S. M. Swearer, & D. L. Espelage (Eds.). The Handbook of Bullying in Schools: An International Perspective. New York: Routledge.*

### Louisville/Jefferson Area

[www.jeffersonkyschools.us](http://www.jeffersonkyschools.us)

- **State-Funded Preschool (ages 3 and 4):** This program serves children who are 4 years old by August 1 of the program year and meet eligibility guidelines, or 3-year-old children with a diagnosed disability. Full-day classes are offered five days a week. Transportation is available.
- **Tuition-Based Preschool (ages 3 and 4):** The Tuition-Based Preschool Program offers full-day classes, Monday through Friday from 9:05 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., for students who are 3 or 4 years old by August 1 of the program year. Parents pay \$155 per week for preschool services and must provide their own transportation. Space is limited, and there is a \$75 registration fee.
- **Kindergarten:** Any child who turns 5 on or before August 1 can enroll in full-day kindergarten. Children must enroll in kindergarten by the time they are 6, since under Kentucky state law, all children must be enrolled in school between the ages of 6 and 18.

- **Exceptional Child Education (ECE)** programs are designed to meet the needs of students who have educational disabilities. **Individual Education Program (IEP)** goals for ECE students are developed to address academic, social/emotional, and transition needs (e.g., changing to a different academic program, progressing from one level to another, or starting a career). ECE services are provided for students with the following disabilities:
  - Autism (U)
  - Deaf and Hard of Hearing (HI)
  - Deaf/Blind (V)
  - Developmental Delay (DD)
  - Emotional-Behavioral Disability (EBD)
  - Functional Mental Disability (FMD)
  - Mild Mental Disability (MMD)
  - Multiple Disability (MD)
  - Physical Disability and Other Health Impairment (PDOHI)
  - Specific Learning Disability (SLD)
  - Speech or Language Impairment (S/L)
  - Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
  - Visual Impairment (VI)
- **English as a Second Language (ESL)** services for all grade levels
- **Bullying:** Parents should contact: Report Bullying Use the [JCPS Tipline](#). Report-A-Bully/Report-A-Threat

## Lexington/Fayette Area

[www.fcps.net](http://www.fcps.net)

- **English Learners Office (fcps.net/el):** The English Learners Office aims to promote the full participation and inclusion of limited English-proficient students in the general education curriculum, ensure their academic success is on par with native speakers, and enable these students to make successful transitions to post-secondary opportunities.
- **Migrant Education Program: (fcps.net/migrants):** The Migrant Education Program (MEP), which is funded through Part C of Title I, offers services to migrant families and out-of-school youth who have moved to Fayette County within the past three years seeking seasonal or temporary agricultural jobs. MEP advocates for migrant students and families so that they can be provided with services based on their needs, such as tutoring, PLATO online classes, summer school services, school registration, school supplies, clothing, food, and medical referrals.
- **Special Education (fcps.net/specialed):** This program covers are speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, employment training, health and psychological services, and assistance for students with hearing and vision impairments.

## Bowling Green/Warren Area

[www.warrencountyschools.org](http://www.warrencountyschools.org)

- **The GEO Center** - Serves as a welcome center for students that come from background languages other than English. Immigrant and refugee families, who wish to enroll their children in Warren County Public Schools, must come to the GEO Center. The GEO Center provides three basic services for these families who are new to Bowling Green/Warren County:
  - 1) Enrollment services
  - 2) English language proficiency screening
  - 3) Enrollment in English language development programs if your child is eligible.

GEO Center Contact: 509 Morgantown Rd. Bowling Green, KY 42101 - (270) 904-4059

- **English Learner Programs:**
  - **Warren County Schools English Learner (EL) Programs** site. Provides instruction and support to students who are not yet proficient in English or English Learners (ELs). The goals of WCS EL Programs include teaching English, supporting and encouraging students' native language proficiency to the maximum extent possible and providing rigorous content instruction and support.
  - **ESL:** The specific goals of the ESL program are 1) to provide EL students with equal opportunity and access to services so they may become fully proficient in English and meet content standards 2) to enable EL students to become Career and College Ready.
- **Special Education** - This Spanish/English resource has a step-by-step guide of the special education process: [www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/steps](http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/steps)