



Registering Your Child for School in the Athens School District

If your child is between the ages of 6 and 15, he or she is entitled by law to attend public schools in Greece. The legal status of the child or his parents or guardians is not relevant. The location of the child's residence is not relevant. *All school age children have a legal right to attend public schools in Greece and such education is compulsory for children between the ages of 6 and 15.* Educational programs operated by NGOs or private individuals (in camps for example) are not a substitute for public education under the law. <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/child-rights/greece.php>

Although all children in Greece are entitled to public education, the Greek government may not make it easy for you to register your child for school and you may find it difficult to get accurate information. You should be prepared to advocate for your child or recruit others to assist you in the process if you do not speak Greek or English.

The following are some steps you will need to take:

IDENTIFY YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL -- Depending on where your child lives, the district will assign your child to a local school. You may know of a school close to the child's residence where you may inquire or you may call the main office at Ommonia. The number is 210 5224638 or 210 5243286. There are English speakers at the office. Your child cannot be denied a public education on the basis that he or she lives in a camp or squat.

DETERMINE WHETHER YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL OR ANOTHER SCHOOL PROVIDES INSTRUCTION IN SPEAKING GREEK. If your child does not speak Greek, you may wish to inquire whether your local school offers instruction in speaking Greek. If it does not, there are schools in Athens that provide such instruction. One is Primary School 50 near the train station, which is west of Victoria Square.

DOCUMENTS YOU MAY NEED TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD. When you register your child for school, administrators may require you to provide certain documents.



Although the requirements seem to be at the discretion of the local school (and may be required to discourage you) you should be prepared to provide the following:

- Identification for your child
- Identification for one parent or guardian
- A utility bill, lease or title for your apartment or house that shows a parent's name and address
- Vaccination records
- A medical form signed by a physician describing the child's health (you may be able to get this at no cost from a public hospital, Mediciens Sans Frontier or Praksis)
- For a child who has attended school previously, a record of the child's attendance in school, for example, a report card or registration document

Your child cannot be denied entrance to a public school if you do not have all of the required documents. However, if the school declines to register your child on that basis, you may have to appeal your case to the central offices.

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES. Children with disabilities are entitled to a public education and education for children with disabilities between the ages of 6 and 15 is compulsory. "Disability" means any kind of intellectual, physical or emotional impairment. However, the Greek public school system has struggled to provide good educational opportunities for children with disabilities. You may have to advocate for accommodation for your child and you may wish to investigate which schools have the best facilities and programs for your child. Greece does have special schools that specialize in teaching children with particular disabilities

<https://www.european-agency.org/country-information/greece/national-overview/legal-system>