

## Schools encouraging parents to register students for school now

Although the school year doesn't start again for students until August 12, Alachua County Public Schools is urging parents to register their children now rather than waiting until just before or just after school starts.

The advice is aimed at the families of students who will be entering an Alachua County public school for the first time and those who have moved or will be moving to a new school zone within the district. Those students can be registered at local schools during the summer Mondays through Thursdays.

"Families can get through the registration process much more quickly during the summer rather than waiting until the last minute," said the district's director of communications Jackie Johnson. "The lines tend to get longer the closer we get to the first day of school."



District and school staff are hoping to reduce the last-minute registrations that make preparations for the upcoming school year more difficult. Without accurate information on the number of students who will be attending a school, what grades they're in and what courses and services they'll need, scheduling and hiring are much more complicated.

Other disadvantages of late registration include delays in starting class and fewer course options, particularly in middle and high schools.

If a child will be entering an Alachua County Public School for the first time, parents should go to their zoned school with documents including the child's birth certificate, proof of a recent physical, proof of immunizations and two proofs of primary residence.

State law says schools must ask for a child's Social Security card, but a card is not required for registration. Records from previous schools are useful, but not required.

For those who've moved to a different school zone within the county, they'll need to take just the two proofs of residence to the new school.

Parents who aren't sure which school their child is zoned for or who need more information can visit the district's website at [www.sbac.edu](http://www.sbac.edu), contact the district's zoning office at (352) 955-7700 or email [zoning@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:zoning@gm.sbac.edu).

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