



# د افغان ګټو سازمان Afghan Advantage™ سازمان منفعت افغان

# **Back to School**

In the U.S., every child has guaranteed access to public education.

⊘ **Good to Know:** <u>USAHello</u> website has excellent information about the U.S. school system, education laws and rights, school success, enrollment, adult education opportunities, scholarships, and training programs. It is available in both <u>Dari</u> and <u>Pashto</u>. Additional information in beginner-level English can be found <u>here</u>.

# **Parent Support**

Parents are required, by law, to make sure their children are in school. <u>Parental support</u> and involvement are an important part of school success. BOTH parents should attend school meetings and activities. It is valuable to meet the people who are working with your child and to connect with other families in the community.

<u>READ READ</u>. You should ready EVERY DAY with your child and have them read to you. <u>Read in any language</u>. Listen to audio books (search YouTube for "read aloud" or "reading rainbow"). Go to your <u>local library</u>.

Limit digital screen time and choose educational programs on <u>PBS kids</u>. These programs are designed by teachers. <u>Sesame Street</u> has a <u>special series</u> designed for children from a refugee background (<u>Dari</u>, <u>Pashto</u>).

Establish a consistent <u>daily routine</u>. Free homework help or tutoring may be available at your school or a local library.

### Communication

Communication with the school is important. You need to know what is happening and who to contact. Most schools use <u>email</u> to communicate - make sure they have your correct email address and check for new information regularly.

In <u>Washington state</u>, you have the <u>right to an interpreter</u> to help you communicate with school. The school may provide interpreters and you can always ask for one. You can also ask a friend or family member to help. More information about translation and interpretation can be found here.

### **Preschool**

Preschool programs are available for children who qualify.

Head Start and ECEAP (Early Childhood Education Assistance Program) offer high-quality, affordable preschool for children ages 3-4 who qualify for services. Some locations have programs for pregnant women and children from birth to age 3. Most school districts have information about these programs on their district website. Federal Way has an example in Dari.

<u>Child Find</u> provides evaluations for children under 5 who show developmental delays or difficulties. Testing results determine eligibility for Special Education services. The testing is available in every school district in Washington state. Renton has an example in <u>Pashto</u> (click the world icon at the top right to select the language).

All children ages 2-5 should have the free <u>ASQ-3 child development screening</u> (Dari and Pashto).

## Know your school district

School districts provide many services for children. Check the website for the school district of your city for information about how to register, how to get reduced-price or free lunches and qualifying for extra help. Ask your school for developmental or placement testing if you are concerned.

<u>Kent:</u> Pashto available, translate menu is at the very top of the page above "HOME" Translation services.

<u>Federal Way:</u> Dari and Pashto available, select "Translation" at the top right near the search button.

<u>Auburn:</u> there is a translate button (looks like a speech bubble) at the top right, near the search button.

### Tukwila:

<u>Seattle:</u> Google translate menu is in the top right-hand corner.

Highline (Burien, SeaTac):

# **Job Opportunities at schools**

Your school district may be the perfect place for you to work. Jobs in the school district have fair pay and good benefits, plus many opportunities for advancement to an even better job. Working as a bus driver, paraeducator, custodian, lunchroom assistant or other school-related jobs allows you to have the same schedule as your child and work while they are at school. Your district website will have a Career, Employment, or Job Opportunities section (see links for the school district sites above).