



University of Pittsburgh

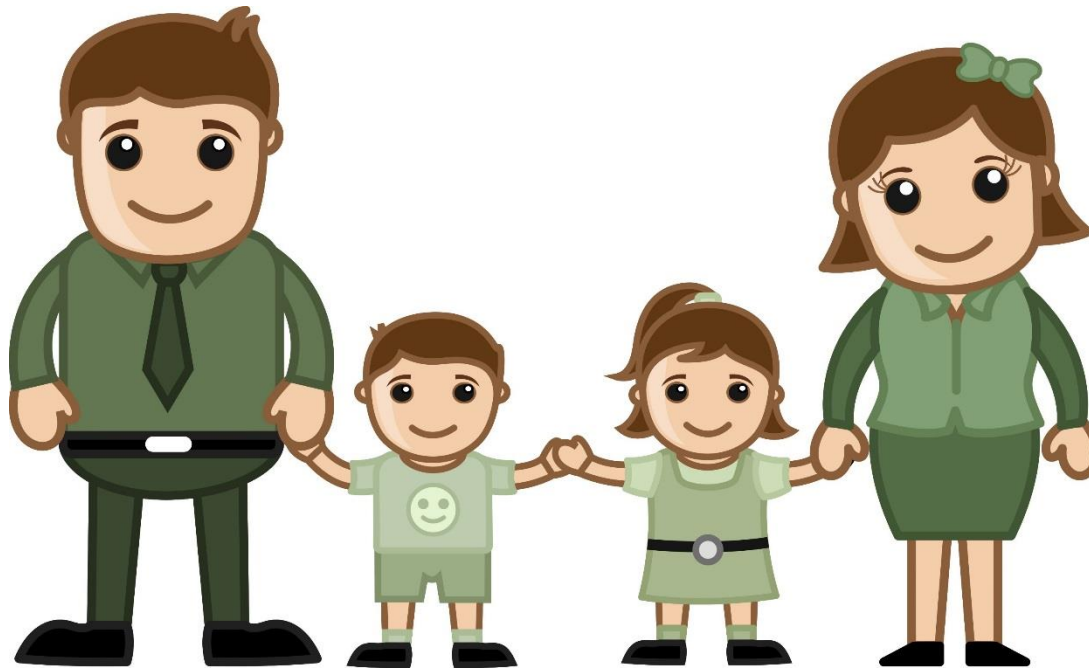
# Family Life in Pittsburgh

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# Basics for settling-in to life in Pittsburgh

- Bus Passes – Port Authority ConnectCard

–Purchase here: United Check Cashing at 3711 Forbes Ave in Oakland or ANY Giant Eagle (see <http://www.connectcard.org/connectcard-locations.aspx>)

- PA State ID card/PA Driver's License

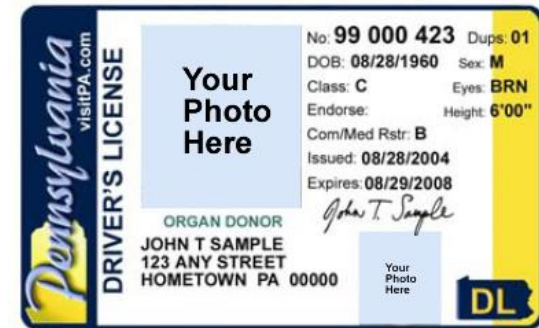
- ITIN (in lieu of SSN)

- Health Insurance – student spouse should include dependent(s) on enrollment

# Getting a Driver's License or State ID

- F-2 & J-2 Dependent

- Passport
- I-94
- Form I-20 or Form DS-2019
- Social Security Card, or denial letter from Social Security Office
- Two documents verifying your PA address
- Driver's License Application Form OR Application for Initial Photo ID card



[www.dmv.state.pa.us/](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/)



## Form W-7 ITIN application

- Avoid applying for it, if you can
- Do NOT send your passport, despite instructions
- Use the SEVP exception rule, only applies if you don't file WITH the tax return
- If you must apply, schedule an appt with your spouse's Immigration Specialist in OIS



# English as a Second Language

## For your dependent spouse

- Allegheny Intermediate Unit: Adult ESL
- Pitt's ELI, Chatham, Duquesne, Point Park & CCAC
- Carnegie Library, IWAP, PRISM & others

## For your dependent children

- Pittsburgh Public Schools provides in school





# Childcare Options in the United States

- Childcare options in the United States are EXPENSIVE
- Childcare options:
  - Daycare Centers
    - provide child care in small groups with well-trained employees
    - Must be licensed by the state
    - Choosing the best daycare center: <http://www.childcareaware.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/101EngM.pdf>
  - Family and In-Home Care Providers
    - Family care providers offer to care for children in their own homes in small groups
    - In-home care providers, such as nannies, take care of your children in your home



## Childcare Resources

- [www.care.com/daycare](http://www.care.com/daycare)
- [www.pakeys.org/docs/a%20Parents%20Guide.pdf](http://www.pakeys.org/docs/a%20Parents%20Guide.pdf)
- Other parents





## Secondary School in the United States

- In Pennsylvania, attendance at school is compulsory for children ages 8-17 [most children go to school from age 5-18]
- Public school is free
- Eligibility for attendance at a particular public school is based on where you live



# Secondary School Resources

- If you live within the city of Pittsburgh

– [www.pps.k12.pa.us](http://www.pps.k12.pa.us)



- If you live outside city limits

– [www.aiu3.net](http://www.aiu3.net)



- Independent Schools

– [www.paista.org](http://www.paista.org)



- For information about ESL programs call 412-529-3516 in Pittsburgh public schools system



# Enrolling your Child in Secondary School

- Proof of your identity and current visa status for you and your child, i.e. passport (and that of the child), immigration documents, and a birth certificate for the child
- Immunization records, which have been officially translated (including dates)
- The US Social Security Number of at least one parent
- Proof of residence in the City of Pittsburgh by providing two documents which show a current Pittsburgh address, (any two of the following: driver's license, utility bill, tax statement, copy of a lease)
- Official translated transcripts if you wish your child to attend a grade level higher than which is considered typical for his/her age in the US



# Enrolling your Child in Secondary School

## Immunizations needed?

Use Allegheny County Health Dept Immunization Clinic

<http://www.achd.net/infectd/clinic.html>

## Participate in your child's school

Through PTO/PTA (Parent-Teacher Orgs/Assoc)



# Raising a Family in Pittsburgh

- Pittsburgh Parent

- [www.pittsburghparent.com](http://www.pittsburghparent.com)

- Children's Hospital

- [www.chp.edu/CHP/for+parents](http://www.chp.edu/CHP/for+parents)

- Carnegie Library

- [www.carnegielibrary.org/research/parentseducators/parents](http://www.carnegielibrary.org/research/parentseducators/parents)

- Mom's Club of Pittsburgh East

- <https://sites.google.com/site/momsclubpittsburgheast/>





## Family Friendly Activities

- Museums
- Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium
- Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
- City Parks
- Cultural District
- Pittsburgh Toy Lending Library





# Experience America

- An on-going cultural orientation session for scholars, graduate students, and their dependents
- [www.ois.pitt.edu/media/experience-america](http://www.ois.pitt.edu/media/experience-america)
- Types of events:
  - Picnics
  - Educational lunches
  - Winter activities
  - Cultural activities





# Pittsburgh Organizations

- International Women's Association of Pittsburgh (IWAP)
  - Regular meetings, cooking classes, field trips & English classes
  - [iwap-home.blogspot.com](http://iwap-home.blogspot.com)
- Global Pittsburgh
  - Potlucks, happy hours, free tickets to cultural events & much more!
  - [www.globalpittsburgh.org](http://www.globalpittsburgh.org)
- Parents' Meetup Groups in Pennsylvania
  - Find a group of parents in your area!
  - <http://parents.meetup.com/cities/us/pa/pittsburgh/>



# Volunteering in the United States

- What is volunteering:
  - A volunteer is a person who donates his or her time or efforts for a cause or organization without being paid
- What is **NOT** volunteering:
  - The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) says that if a person provides a normal service for which a person would normally be employed, the activity is considered employment and cannot be considered a volunteer activity
  - [www.hr.pitt.edu/careers/volunteering-pitt](http://www.hr.pitt.edu/careers/volunteering-pitt)

# Resources for Volunteer Opportunities

- Pitt Serves

- [www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/pittserves](http://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/pittserves)



- Volunteer Match

- [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org)



- Pittsburgh Cares

- [www.pittsburghcares.org](http://www.pittsburghcares.org)





## Other Resources

- Graduate & Professional Student Gov't (GPSG)
  - <http://gpsg.pitt.edu/resources/>
- Vibrant Pittsburgh
  - <http://vibrantpittsburgh.org/welcome/newcomers-guide/>
- Internations
  - <https://www.internations.org/support/faq/getting-started>



# International Grocery Stores

- Chinese

- Lotus Foods (Strip District)  
1649 Penn Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

- Middle Eastern

- Labad's (Strip District)  
1727 Penn Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

- Indian and South Asian

- Bombay Mart (Oakland)  
4605 Centre Ave  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
  - Kohli's Indian Emporium (Oakland)  
319 South Craig Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

- African & Caribbean

- Global Food Market (East Liberty)  
132 South Highland Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

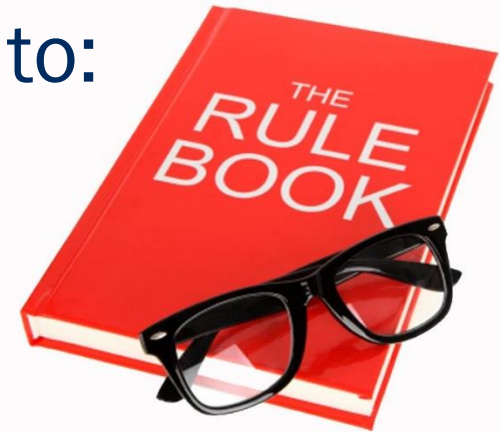
- Latino

- Las Palmas (Oakland)  
326 Atwood Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213



## F-2 Dependent Regulations

- F-2 Dependents are permitted to:
  - Volunteer
  - Study (part-time only)
- F-2 Dependents are **NOT** permitted to:
  - Work
  - Remain in F-2 status after the age of 21 [child]







# Activities Permitted for J-2 Dependents

- J-2 Dependents are permitted to
  - Study
  - Volunteer
  - Work with Employment Authorization Card
- J-2 Dependents are **NOT** permitted to
  - Remain in J-2 status after the age of 21 [child]



## Don't Forget!

- F-2 and J-2 dependents need valid travel signatures when travelling
- A dependent's status is valid ONLY if the primary's status is valid



## “Trailing Spouse”

*Someone who joins their partner in a move abroad without having secured suitable employment in the new location.*

### Resources/Perspectives

- <http://www.expatinfodesk.com/expat-guide/moving-with-your-partner/being-a-trailing-spouse/>
- <http://globallivingmagazine.com/dont-call-me-a-trailing-spouse/>
- <https://internationalhrforum.com/2012/02/21/relocation-mistakes-of-a-first-time-trailing-spouse/>



# Questions?

