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QUESTIONS TO ASK TO FIND THE RIGHT PRIVATE SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD.

Private schools are known for providing safe, nurturing environments where students are encouraged to reach their full academic potential. Each private school is unique in its own way. The goal for parents is to find the right school environment for their child and family. Choosing well means finding the right match for your child's abilities, interests, and needs, as well as for your family's values.

Private schools are no longer considered elitist or exclusive; they are now highly regarded as independent schools with distinguished adherence to particular missions, to academic rigor, and to building character, many with service and community learning projects in environments that promote and nurture respect for all.

There are many factors to consider when looking at a private school. How much does it cost? What is the academic program like? These two questions are always first on the list. Parents should choose a private school wisely by being informed. Make a list of the private schools in your area, and compare academic programs, school sizes, locations, and teacher engagement, keeping in mind the overall goal you have for your child with regard to college. Take a tour of each campus, meet the staff, and ask questions to help you understand what each school is focused on.

As you consider educational options for your child, keep these questions in mind to help you evaluate whether a school is the right fit for your child and for your family.

1

Do the school's mission and philosophy appeal to you? Is the atmosphere competitive? Nurturing?

2

What types of learning experiences are available through classes, sports, extracurricular activities, and community service?

3

If the school has a religious orientation, how does it fit your family?

4

Does the school have a diverse student body and faculty?

5

How many students does the school have? What is the average class size?

6

Where is the school located, and how does the location affect your transportation needs? Does the school provide transportation? What is the cost?

7

For high schools, what are the graduation requirements? What percentage of students enter college, and what kinds of colleges do the students attend?

8

Is the school accredited, and if so, by whom?

9

What is the tuition cost? What are the extra charges, such as for books, lab fees, testing, and transportation? Does the school offer tuition assistance?

10

Can you imagine your child at the school?