

10 QUESTIONS TO ASK TO FIND THE RIGHT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD

As you review materials and visit schools, keep these questions in mind to help you evaluate whether a school is the right fit for your child and for your family:

- 1 What is the school's mission, and does its philosophy appeal to you?
Is the atmosphere competitive? Nurturing?
- 2 What types of learning experiences are available—in class, on the playing field, in extracurricular activities, and in 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?
- 6 Where is it, and how does the location affect your transportation needs?
Does the school provide transportation? How much does it cost?
- 7 For high schools, what are the graduation requirements? What percentage of students enters 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? What are the extra charges, such as for books, lab fees, and transportation?
- 10 What are the financing and financial aid options available to you?

And finally: Can you imagine your child at the school?

Want to learn more?

Read real stories about what students are doing right now in independent school classrooms at www.inspirationlab.org. You'll also find a link to all schools that are members of the National Association of Independent Schools at www.nais.org.



National Association
of Independent Schools

www.nais.org

ABOUT INDEPENDENT PRIVATE SCHOOLS

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

Independent schools prepare students for academic success.

Graduating seniors at NAIS schools achieved substantially higher results on their SAT tests than their peers.

2013-2014 SAT Test Scores: National Averages and NAIS Schools

Independent schools strengthen 21st Century skills.

To a greater degree than the comparable public and private school cohorts, independent school graduates spent more time in activities such as asking questions in class, evaluating the quality or reliability of information, and looking for alternative solutions to a problem, among others.

Independent School Graduates: Well-Prepared, Open-Minded, and Eager to Learn

Independent schools nurture in students the desire for a future that combines economic success with social responsibility and personal fulfillment.

Graduates from NAIS schools were more likely than public school graduates to feel it is important or essential to be community leaders, become successful in their own businesses, become involved in programs to clean up the environment, and more.

NAIS Graduates: Ready and Able to Adjust and Excel at Academic Life

More than 2,000 independent private schools across the United States provide high-quality education to more than 700,000 students from pre-K through high school.

Independent schools are close-knit communities that provide students with individualized attention. They challenge students to stretch their minds and go beyond academics to develop responsible, independent, and community-oriented students.

What make independent schools *independent*?

Independent schools are independent in philosophy: each is driven by a unique mission. They are also independent in the way they are managed and financed: each is governed by an independent board of trustees and each is primarily supported through tuition payments and charitable contributions. They are accountable to their communities and are accredited by state-approved accrediting bodies.

Independent schools come in all shapes and sizes.

Independent schools include elementary and secondary schools; day and boarding schools; single sex and coeducational schools. Some independent schools are religiously affiliated, and others are not. They vary in size and educational approach.

Find the school that is the right fit for your child and your family. Find information and research at www.nais.org.

NAIS EMPOWERS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS AND THE
STUDENTS THEY SERVE.



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