



School-choice Criteria Checklist

The following school-choice criteria are provided for your consideration and ranking. It is important to remember that each item – separately or in combination with other criteria – could have a significant impact on determining the school district, school setting or learning environment that will best accommodate the unique talents and needs of your student. To that end, please try to keep in mind how each item helps to inform *what will be best for your child*.

Rank the importance of each item for you using a 1 to 5 scale, with 1 being the most important and 5 being least important.

- _____ Anticipated level of involvement in school for each parent (for all schools under consideration).
- _____ Availability of community sports, art, music (i.e. availability and diversity of community programming).
- _____ Challenging academic environment with many alternatives.
- _____ Child care requirements and arrangements.
- _____ Diversified programming (fine arts, music, athletics, etc.)
- _____ Diversity of student population; ethnicity as well as socio-economic diversity.
- _____ Each parent's ability to participate in school activities, after-school activities.
- _____ Faculty Engagement.
- _____ Financial considerations.
- _____ Gifted and talented/special needs programming.
- _____ Handling of special needs such as food allergies.
- _____ Impact of school attendance on existing or proposed access schedule; daily schedule for the child, parents and others.
- _____ Languages offered; any specific language.
- _____ Local community's stability and investment in the school.
- _____ Materials published by or about school.
- _____ Next school availability in district (if student currently attends elementary or middle school).
- _____ Number of students in honors or advanced placement programs.
- _____ Post-high school (college) placement.
- _____ Public vs. private.
- _____ School in a location providing a safe environment.
- _____ School physical plant (lay-out, gymnasium, music room, cafeteria, etc.).



School-choice Criteria Checklist (P.2)

- _____ School start and end times (and how that impacts parents).
- _____ School (District) graduation rates.
- _____ School's (District's) policy regarding peer relationships (e.g., school policy regarding bullying).
- _____ Size of school.
- _____ Standardized test scores.
- _____ Statistical and other data available for each school, including class size, per pupil spending, teacher training, pupil/staff ratio, curriculum, technology, diversity, extracurricular activities, stability.
- _____ Summary of discussions with teachers, administrators, other school personnel.
- _____ Surroundings with active, intelligent children with involved parents.
- _____ Teacher qualifications and tenure.
- _____ Transportation and proximity to household considerations.
- _____ Where other children in the family attend.
- _____ Whether or not there is a school counselor on site, and whether the school counselor is full-time or part-time.
- _____ Other pertinent and relevant information to be considered.

Please feel free to share anything else that is important to you about the school-choice evaluation process that may not be listed above.
