



Welcome to the downloadable guide for a stress-free school search. The guide includes just two pages. Print a copy of the first page for each of the schools that you are considering and for each child if you are evaluating separately. Use the second page as a thought-starter for questions to ask on your visits and tips on what to look out for.

Enjoy!



School Search for _____

School Name _____

Grades _____

Type of School (independent, charter, Catholic, public, etc)

Description of Curriculum _____

Address _____

Commute Time (morning/afternoon) _____

Tuition _____

Description of Facilities _____

Notes/Observations _____

Sample questions for school visits:

Leadership

- What is your vision, philosophy and mission for the school?
- What makes the school unique?

Additional questions:

Current Parents

- How has your experience been?
- What is your previous experience prior to this school and what brought you here?
- What do you like most/least?

Additional questions:

Students

- Do you feel like teachers know you well?
- What is your favorite experience/class?
- Why do you like your school?

Additional questions:

Teachers

- Why do you like teaching at the school?
- Would or do you send your own child there, why or why not?
- Do you get professional development opportunities?
- What makes the school unique?

Additional questions:

Suggestions of what to look out for on tours/visits:

- Are teachers engaging with students?
- Do they know students' names?
- Does staff know/seem to know the children?
- Does staff seem to know one another?
- Does the school seem secure?
- Does the school seem clean?
- Does it look like they are doing what they say they do, i.e. is it evident on the classroom walls, hallways, exchanges between teacher/student and student/student
- Does the school feel too crowded/too empty?
- Do people seem happy?
- Pay attention to gut feelings!
- Additional thoughts/ideas:

Suggestions of what to ask your child after a visit (if age appropriate, of course!):

- Did you feel comfortable?
- Were you made to feel like you belong?
- Were students friendly? Did they seem happy?
- Were teachers friendly? Did they seem to like and know their students?
- How many students were in the classes?
- Did students seem comfortable with one another at lunch?
- Could you see yourself going to school there?