

You have researched cribs, car seats, doctors, and pre-schools. Now its time to choose a school for your child – a critical step that will influence the rest of your child’s life.

Fortunately, you have many choices including public, private, parochial, Christian, and home school.

It is your right and responsibility to consider the options and select the most appropriate school for your child – a school that will help your child reach his/her potential and excel academically, socially, physically, and emotionally.

IT’S AN INVESTMENT IN THEIR FUTURE!

Every family has different priorities and every child has different needs. It is essential that you determine your particular goals and needs before you can find the right school. Education will affect how your child sees the world, treats others, and views their life.

Years from now, your child probably will not remember much detail about what their teachers taught, but they will remember who their teachers were.

They will remember their teachers’ guidance, concern, and love. A part of each teacher will be transferred to your child(ren) permanently.



LEARNING TO READ *A Foundation for Success*

For information on how to prepare your child for school and a free Kindergarten phonics-reading book, call (812) 477-7777.

All who are fully trained will be like their teacher. Luke 6:40

The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next. Abraham Lincoln

Start children off on the way they should go, and when they are old they will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6

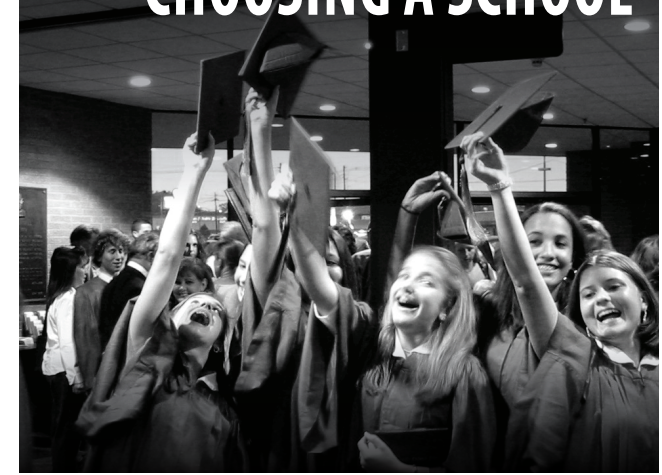
Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education. Martin Luther King

Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” 1 Corinthians 15:33

School choice represents a return to some most basic American values. It affords hope and opportunity. Ronald Reagan

A person’s lifelong behaviors and views are generally developed before they reach the teenage years. Barna Research Group

a parent’s guide to **CHOOSING A SCHOOL**



EDUCATE

ED’U CATE – to instruct; to inform and enlighten the understanding; to instill in the mind principles of arts, science, morals, religion and behavior. To educate children well is one of the most important duties of parents.

- Webster’s Dictionary (1828)

We only have so much time to prepare our children in life. Where and how we allow our children to spend their time is one of the most important responsibilities we have.

- Dr. James Dobson

After identifying your needs and values, parents should visit their top choices. No amount of research or input from other parents can tell you as much as you will learn by actually visiting the school. During your visit, you will get a “feel” for the school’s culture and overall environment – don’t be afraid to ask questions (see box). Finally, once you make a decision, enroll your child(ren) and get involved!

<i>Questions to ask when visiting schools</i>	<i>Public School</i>	<i>Evansville Christian School (ECSwired.org)</i>	<i>Other School(s)</i>
<i>What is the school’s mission and philosophy of education?</i>			
<i>Is the school accredited? By which agencies?</i>			
<i>Are all teachers licensed and highly qualified?</i>			
<i>How many students will be in my child’s class?</i>			
<i>What curriculum is used? Is the curriculum rigorous and relevant?</i>			
<i>How do the school’s test scores compare with other schools?</i>			
<i>Does the school have high expectations for each student? Is there a climate that encourages students to excel?</i>			
<i>Does the school emphasize critical thinking and decision-making – skills needed in a rapidly changing world?</i>			
<i>Are a variety of teaching styles and hands-on learning activities used to meet the needs of each student?</i>			
<i>Will my child develop the organization, study, and time-management skills to be successful?</i>			
<i>What values and worldview are reinforced in the classroom/at the school?</i>			
<i>What does the school do to develop character and citizenship?</i>			
<i>What is the culture of the school (family, friendly, orderly/neat, disciplined, etc.)?</i>			
<i>Do teachers seem enthusiastic and knowledgeable? Do they engage and inspire the students?</i>			
<i>Is there a welcoming attitude toward parents?</i>			
<i>How do students treat each other and adults?</i>			
<i>How does the school communicate with students and parents? Do parents have timely access to information?</i>			
<i>What departmental subjects are taught (PE, fine arts, music, etc.)? Are they taught by licensed teachers?</i>			
<i>Are any foreign languages taught?</i>			
<i>Do students have access to technology?</i>			
<i>Is there a well stocked library/media center?</i>			
<i>What extracurricular activities are offered (fine arts, clubs, etc.) to provide a well-rounded experience?</i>			
<i>What athletic opportunities are offered? What is the school’s philosophy toward athletics?</i>			
<i>What other services are offered to meet parent needs (after school care, bus, health coordinator, etc.)?</i>			
<i>What is the school’s approach to student safety?</i>			
<i>What is the leadership’s style, attitude, and accessibility?</i>			
<i>Is there an active parent organization? How can parents get involved in the school?</i>			
<i>Are the facilities well maintained?</i>			

Resources

Choosing a School – U.S. Department of Education (www.ed.gov/parents/schools/find/choose/index.html).
 Choosing a School for Your Child (<http://privateschool.about.com>)
 Indiana Academic Standards – Indiana Department of Education (www.doe.in.gov/standards)

ISTEP+ Parent Network (www.doe.in.gov/istepparentnetwork)
 School Data from Indiana Department of Education (www.doe.in.gov/data)