

Checklist for Finding the Right School for Your Family

Go through as many of these questions as you need to so you can find the best fit.

1. Educational Philosophy and Approach	It's a Fit!	Not Quite
What is your school's philosophy of education?		
What are the school's current goals or strategic initiatives?		
Is it a faith-based school? If so, how does that faith permeate the school?		
Is there a bilingual or immersion program? What languages are offered and at what age?		
What are college and university acceptance rates, and where do your graduates typically attend?		
How do you encourage critical thinking and creativity?		
How are lessons differentiated for children with different learning styles or abilities? For students who are excelling, and for those who need more support?		

2. Character Development	It's a Fit!	Not Quite
What does the school do to foster kindness and respect?		
How does the school address conflicts between students?		
How does the school define bullying, and what steps are taken to prevent it?		
What opportunities are there for leadership for students?		

3. Inclusivity and Diversity	It's a Fit!	Not Quite
How does the school ensure inclusivity for children of different backgrounds, abilities, and family structures?		
What supports are in place for students with special needs or learning differences?		

4. Teacher Qualifications and Development	It's a Fit!	Not Quite
What qualifications and certifications are required of teachers?		
How does the school ensure that teachers stay current?		
What support do teachers receive to continue growing in their practice?		

5. Homework and Parental Involvement	It's a Fit!	Not Quite
What are your homework expectations? Do those expectations change depending on the grade level?		
Are parents expected to help their children with homework, or is it independent?		
On average, how many students have tutors, and at what age does that tutoring typically begin?		
How are parents expected to participate in the school community?		

6. Class Size and Personalized Attention	It's a Fit!	Not Quite
What is the average class size, and how does that translate into personalized attention?		
How are teaching assistants or specialists utilized in the classroom?		
Can I see a sample schedule for _____ grade?		
In middle or upper school, how do they ensure subjects like math, language, and arts receive adequate focus?		

7. Technology Use and Resources	It's a Fit!	Not Quite
How is technology used in the classroom?		
Do they teach keyboarding skills?		
Is there a 1-to-1 device model? If so, are devices provided by the school or purchased by parents?		
How is tech balanced with non-tech and what non-tech resources are available (e.g., library, art supplies, playground)?		
How is the school approaching the use of AI, for teachers and students?		

8. Extracurricular Opportunities	It's a Fit!	Not Quite
What kinds of extracurricular activities do you offer?		
Are there opportunities for students to explore new hobbies or passions inside the classroom or outside of the classroom?		

9. Lunch, Snacks and Physical Activity	It's a Fit!	Not Quite
What are the school's policies on meals and snacks? Can students bring food from home? What kinds of food are acceptable?		
How are dietary restrictions accommodated?		
How much physical activity do students get during the day?		

10. Safety and Security	It's a Fit!	Not Quite
What measures are in place to ensure safety?		
How do you address emergencies, both big and small?		
How are parents informed when something occurs?		

11. Assessments and Feedback	It's a Fit!	Not Quite
How are students assessed, and how often?		
How frequently and in what format will I hear from my child's teacher?		
What do parent-teacher conferences look like?		

12. Community and Testimonials	It's a Fit!	Not Quite
Can I speak with current students and parents?		
How does the school foster a sense of community?		
How many new families join the school each year, and typically in which grade levels?		