

# Schools Checklist



Our surveys of relocating families show that the most effective way to learn about schools in your new area is to talk with the school superintendent and the individual school administrator. Whether in person or on the phone, this discussion will allow you to gain firsthand knowledge of the school and its activities, as well as provide an opportunity to discuss your children's particular needs.

## School District

School district name \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Total enrollment \_\_\_\_\_ Number of schools \_\_\_\_\_ Grades \_\_\_\_\_  
What percentage of the school district's financing comes from the following sources  
\_\_\_\_\_ % local \_\_\_\_\_ % state \_\_\_\_\_ % federal \_\_\_\_\_ % other  
Expenditure per pupil \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the school district unionized?  yes  no  
If yes, what is their strike record? \_\_\_\_\_

## Individual School

School name \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade levels \_\_\_\_\_  
Towns/areas attending this school \_\_\_\_\_ Total school enrollment \_\_\_\_\_  
Bus routes \_\_\_\_\_  
How long a ride? Miles \_\_\_\_\_ Minutes \_\_\_\_\_ What percentage of pupils uses the buses? \_\_\_\_\_  
Is there a charge to ride the bus?  yes  no If yes, what is the cost? \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Can high-school students drive to school?  yes  no If yes, is there adequate parking?  yes  no  
Food services available:  breakfast  lunch  snacks  
Is it state-funded?  yes  no Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Is on-site or nearby day-care available: Before school?  yes  no After school?  yes  no  
Names of day-care facilities available nearby \_\_\_\_\_

## Faculty

Teacher's salary: Starting \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Average \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Does your school require competency testing of faculty?  yes  no  
Are parent-teacher conferences provided?  yes  no  
If yes, how many per school year? \_\_\_\_\_  
Is there a parent-teacher association (PTA)?  yes  no  
If yes, what percentage of parents has paid PTA membership dues? \_\_\_\_\_ %  
What activities does the PTA sponsor? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Classroom

How is the classroom organized?  open  traditional  team-teaching  other \_\_\_\_\_  
Average class size \_\_\_\_\_ Minimum \_\_\_\_\_ Maximum \_\_\_\_\_ Student/teacher ratio \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Are the students given homework?  yes  no If yes, approximately how many hours per night? \_\_\_\_\_

## Education

What percentage of students continues into higher education? \_\_\_\_\_ % college \_\_\_\_\_ % vocational \_\_\_\_\_ % combined  
Testing scores:  
SAT: \_\_\_\_\_ verbal \_\_\_\_\_ math \_\_\_\_\_ combined  
American College Testing (ACT): \_\_\_\_\_ natural science \_\_\_\_\_ reading \_\_\_\_\_ social science \_\_\_\_\_ mathematics  
Other achievement tests relevant to the school system: \_\_\_\_\_  
Must the students pass a literacy test before graduating from high school?  yes  no What is the required passing grade? \_\_\_\_\_  
What is the dropout rate (by grade or overall)? \_\_\_\_\_  
What additional programs are available?  
 special education  bilingual education  honors program  gifted & talented programs  
 computer literacy  tutoring  work-study programs  remedial instruction in math/reading  
 electives  adult education  vocational curriculum  other \_\_\_\_\_  
Are computers available to students?  yes  no  
What type of laboratory science equipment is available? \_\_\_\_\_  
Is there a library on the school premises?  yes  no If yes, how many volumes? \_\_\_\_\_ Number of periodicals? \_\_\_\_\_  
Is there an organized student government program?  yes  no If yes, is there student participation?  yes  no  
Is there a guidance program with career counseling?  yes  no If yes, is it individual or group? \_\_\_\_\_

## Sports

What organized sports activities are available?  
 football  field hockey  hockey  baseball  softball  swimming  basketball  
 golf  cross country  volleyball  skiing  soccer  track  lacrosse  
 tennis  other \_\_\_\_\_  
What type of gym/sports facilities are available? \_\_\_\_\_  
What type of playground equipment is available? \_\_\_\_\_

## School Clubs

What school clubs are available?  
 band  foreign language  newspaper  computer  orchestra  American Field Services  
 glee  yearbook  drama  ski  pep  international relations  
 choir  debate/speech  chess  science  career development  
 DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America)  other \_\_\_\_\_