

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.

Be sure to check school ratings using our Neighborhood Navigator tool.

School District

School district name _____

Contact name _____ Telephone _____

Total enrollment _____ Number of schools _____ Grades _____

What percentage of the school district's funding comes from the following sources?

_____ % local _____ % state _____ % federal _____ % other

Expenditure per pupil \$ _____

Homeschool groups or Co-Ops available? ☐ yes ☐ no

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 use the buses? _____

Is there a charge to ride the bus? ☐ yes ☐ no If yes, what is the cost? \$ _____

Does the school have support services for students with learning disabilities? ☐ yes ☐ no

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 daycare available: Before school? ☐ yes ☐ no After school? ☐ yes ☐ no

Names of nearby daycare facilities _____

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 have paid PTA membership dues? _____ %

What activities does the PTA sponsor? _____

Does the school have support services for students with learning disabilities

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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 continue to 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?

☐ computer literacy ☐ tutoring ☐ work study programs ☐ other _____

☐ electives ☐ adult education ☐ vocational curriculum

☐ bilingual education ☐ honors program ☐ gifted & talented programs

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? _____ No. 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 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 club ☐ international relations

☐ chorus ☐ debate/speech ☐ chess ☐ science ☐ career development

☐ DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) ☐ other _____