

# Schools Checklist

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 use 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 daycare available:

Before school?  yes  no

After school?  yes  no

Names of daycare 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?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 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? \_\_\_\_\_

# Schools Checklist

## 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  
 computer literacy  tutoring  
 work-study programs  electives  
 remedial instruction in math/reading  
 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  glee  
 American Field Services  yearbook  
 drama  ski  pep  
 international relations   
choir  
 debate/speech  chess  
 science  career development  
 DECA(Distributive Education Clubs of America)  
 other

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_