

# School News & Notes



## Evaluating Your Child's School: A Parent's Guide

(NAPSA)—How can parents spot a high-quality school? Research shows that there are several factors that strongly influence excellence within a school—public or private. The National Association of Independent Schools and more than 30 partner associations have identified five questions that parents should ask to assess the quality of their child's educational experience.

### **1. Are there high-quality and committed teachers?**

Schools that employ educated, talented teachers are taking the first step to providing an excellent education. High-quality teachers are well prepared in content knowledge, possess strong teaching skills, and have a command of the materials that are being presented in the classroom. They develop an understanding of how each student learns and what interests and motivates them.

### **2. Are classroom lessons innovative and engaging?**

First-rate schools provide students with innovative classroom instruction. Hands-on learning experiences, stimulating class discussions, group projects, and off-site field trips are just some ways that successful schools challenge students to stretch their minds. Quality schools give teachers the freedom to create unique learning opportunities that are tailored to students' learning styles.

### **3. Do students get clear value from their education?**

Schools that encourage active civic participation, show an ongoing commitment to community service, and teach students how to make ethical decisions can add significant value to a student's educational experience.



**The best teachers are excited about teaching and bring enthusiasm to the classroom.**

### **4. Does the school hold itself accountable for its students' academic performance?**

Quality schools take the education of their students seriously. They are organized for effective oversight and management with governance that encourages everyone to meet high expectations. Quality schools also undergo rigorous evaluation by a recognized accrediting body.

### **5. Are parents an active part of a student's educational experience?**

The most successful schools promote regular communication among students, parents and teachers to ensure that everyone is working towards the same goals for the student. Parental involvement can take many forms, including helping out in the classroom and serving on schoolwide committees.

To learn more about successful schools, visit [www.nais.org](http://www.nais.org).