

A TIMELINE FOR YOUR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL SEARCH

Although not every independent private school follows the exact same admission schedule, keep the following monthly tips in mind.

AUGUST *(of the year before you want your child to attend)*

- Determine what you're looking for in a school.
- Begin researching schools that meet your child's needs.
- Develop a list of schools that you'd like to find out more about.

SEPTEMBER

- Request admissions and financial aid material.
- Check with schools to see if they're participating in a local school fair where you can gather material and impressions from several schools at once.
- Note pertinent deadlines for admission and financial aid.
- Register for any standardized tests required for admission (each school lists specific admission criteria on its application).
- If testing is required, review the test website to learn about procedures and test dates; consider purchasing a test-preparation book.
- Call schools to schedule individual tours, interviews, class visits, and "shadow days."

OCTOBER

- Visit open houses, attend information sessions, and take tours.
- Finalize a list of schools to which you will apply.
- Take standardized admission tests, if applicable.

NOVEMBER

- Watch for open houses you may want to attend.
- Start lining up teacher recommendations from your child's current school.
- Start working on applications, financial aid forms, and student questionnaires.

DECEMBER

- Continue to watch for any open houses or school events of interest.
- Request transcripts at the end of your child's first semester.
- Complete any remaining applications.

JANUARY

- Pay attention to deadlines: Most schools' applications—along with tests scores, references, transcripts, and financial aid forms—are due in January or February.

FEBRUARY

- Don't miss the deadlines!
- Visit schools or have your child participate in a student shadow day if you haven't already.

MARCH

- Watch for school decisions starting in mid-March.
- Watch for financial aid decisions about this same time.
- If you've applied to and have been accepted by multiple schools, decide which school is the right fit for your child.

APRIL

- Sign and return enrollment contracts and deposits.

MAY to SEPTEMBER

- Attend events and activities for new parents and students during spring and summer.



National Association
of Independent Schools

www.nais.org

ABOUT INDEPENDENT PRIVATE SCHOOLS

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

Independent schools prepare students for academic success.

Graduating seniors at NAIS schools achieved substantially higher results on their SAT tests than their peers.

2013-2014 SAT Test Scores: National Averages and NAIS Schools

Independent schools strengthen 21st Century skills.

To a greater degree than the comparable public and private school cohorts, independent school graduates spent more time in activities such as asking questions in class, evaluating the quality or reliability of information, and looking for alternative solutions to a problem, among others.

Independent School Graduates: Well-Prepared, Open-Minded, and Eager to Learn

Independent schools nurture in students the desire for a future that combines economic success with social responsibility and personal fulfillment.

Graduates from NAIS schools were more likely than public school graduates to feel it is important or essential to be community leaders, become successful in their own businesses, become involved in programs to clean up the environment, and more.

NAIS Graduates: Ready and Able to Adjust and Excel at Academic Life

More than 2,000 independent private schools across the United States provide high-quality education to more than 700,000 students from pre-K through high school.

Independent schools are close-knit communities that provide students with individualized attention. They challenge students to stretch their minds and go beyond academics to develop responsible, independent, and community-oriented students.

What make independent schools *independent*?

Independent schools are independent in philosophy: each is driven by a unique mission. They are also independent in the way they are managed and financed: each is governed by an independent board of trustees and each is primarily supported through tuition payments and charitable contributions. They are accountable to their communities and are accredited by state-approved accrediting bodies.

Independent schools come in all shapes and sizes.

Independent schools include elementary and secondary schools; day and boarding schools; single sex and coeducational schools. Some independent schools are religiously affiliated, and others are not. They vary in size and educational approach.

Find the school that is the right fit for your child and your family. Find information and research at www.nais.org.

NAIS EMPOWERS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS AND THE
STUDENTS THEY SERVE.



National Association
of Independent Schools

www.nais.org