



School Visit Checklist for Parents

Step 1: Collect some background information on the school.

	School 1: _____	School 2: _____	School 3: _____
What kind of school is it? (traditional public, magnet, charter, or private)			
What kinds of demographics are at the school? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly all one income level? • Socio-economically diverse? • Mostly all one race/ethnicity/religion? • Diverse race/ethnicity/religion? <p><i>Demographics don't matter to all people, but some people are interested in making certain that their children attend diverse schools. Ignore if you are not concerned about this.</i></p>			
How does the school meet the needs of students who receive special education services? <p><i>This may only be a concern to you if your child has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).</i></p>			
What are the school's standardized test scores? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What percentage of students are scoring proficient or advanced? <p><i>If the school is a public school, you can find this information at www.mcids.dese.mo.gov, but we encourage you to ask for this information when you visit the school.</i></p>			

Step 2: Visit the school during regular school hours. Observe the classrooms in which your child will be enrolled.

	School 1: _____	School 2: _____	School 3: _____
Are the students excited and engaged in what they are learning?			
Is the teacher checking for understanding?			
Are students on task and paying attention?			
Is the classroom a place where you would want to spend your time?			
Do staff members appear to be respectful to students?			
Do students appear to be respectful to each other and to the adults in the building?			
Is there data on student achievement posted in the building? Does this data demonstrate work that would both challenge and excite your child?			
Does the teacher appear to follow a plan?			

Step 3: Talk with a teacher or administrator at the school.

	School 1: _____	School 2: _____	School 3: _____
How are decisions made about curriculum?			
Ask questions that are specific to your child... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allergies? • Special needs? • Physical considerations? • Curricular needs? 			
What are the expectations of parents?			
What opportunities do parents have to be involved in the school?			
What is the school's discipline policy?			

Step 4: Talk to a child who attends the school.

	School 1: _____	School 2: _____	School 3: _____
What does the child think about the school?			
What does the child dislike about the school?			

Step 5: Look at the physical structure of the school.

	School 1: _____	School 2: _____	School 3: _____
Is the school in a safe neighborhood?			
Is the building secured?			
Is it easy for young children to find their way around the school?			
Is the school somewhere that you, as a parent, would like to spend time?			
Do the bulletin boards have current student work on them?			
Are there enough books, chairs, or desks for all of the children?			

