



HOW-TO GUIDE

FOUR KEYS:

HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITION FROM PUBLIC TO PRIVATE SCHOOL

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The administration
has done everything
they can to make my
transition smoother. I
have felt very welcome
and I am proud to be
part of this tight-knit
community.

– Drew C., Sophomore at The Episcopal School of Dallas on his transition from a public high school to ESD.



Private or independent schooling is sought out by families hoping to give their children more opportunities and a personalized experience. In "The Condition of Education," it's reported that nearly six million students were enrolled in private elementary and secondary schools in 2020, and the numbers continue to grow. ThoughtCo.com offers these five reasons for making the switch:

- ✓ **CLASS SIZE**
- ✓ **TEACHER PREPARATION**
- ✓ **PREPARATION FOR COLLEGE**
- ✓ **STUDENT ATTITUDES**
- ✓ **MEANINGFUL ACADEMICS AND ACTIVITIES**



With the new opportunities private schooling brings, there may also be challenges. When transitioning from public to private school, students may be unfamiliar with the culture and need additional support acclimating into the community. These feelings are natural and expected but should be addressed to ensure a smooth transition. So how do you ensure that your child has a smooth transition and thrives in their new school community?



Tip 1 FIND A SCHOOL THAT MATCHES YOUR STUDENT'S NEEDS.

Each school has its own culture, core beliefs, and educational offerings, so it's paramount that your school of choice reflects your family's needs, wants, and values. Parents are often looking for a more robust education for their children that reaches beyond core curriculum and includes an emphasis on 21st-century skills like global citizenship, diversity, equity and inclusion, emotional wellness, physical health and outdoor education, among others.

A more creative and artistically minded student may face difficulties in a school that values test scores above artistic expression. The same is true for a student interested in sports at a school without a strong athletics program. The best way to avoid this is to research schools with your child and keep an open mind. It may be tempting to focus on the top schools in your area, but dig deeper to find the right fit, and have your child weigh in on the process.



NEED A LITTLE EXTRA HELP?

Download our free guide
"How to Choose a Private
School: 10 Basic Factors Every
Parent Should First Consider"
now or visit [esdallas.org/
choosingaschool](https://esdallas.org/choosingaschool)





OBSERVE CAMPUS LIFE "IRL."

Every school can look and seem perfect online or in a brochure, but the real test is how you and your child feel once you've visited the campus.

The National Association of Independent Schools offers these questions to consider as you tour:

- ☐ Do the students you see seem productive, engaged, and happy?
- ☐ Is the campus clean, well-lighted, and secure?
- ☐ Does what you see reflect the school's stated mission?
- ☐ Does the school feel like a community?
- ☐ Are students interacting with teachers outside and inside the classroom?

If you cannot visit the campus, check out other resources that the school may provide, including virtual tours, virtual events, and conversations with current students, parents, and teachers. Following a school's social media accounts and attending arts and athletics events on campus is recommended because it provides a glimpse into daily life and community on campus.





INVESTIGATE HOW SCHOOLS SUPPORT NEW STUDENTS.

You have questions, and the admission team has answers, so ask away! At the top of your list should be, "How does your school support its incoming students socially and academically?"

A good admission team will have many opportunities to bring new students into the fold, whether through class buddies, student advisories, or programs designed to guide new students and their families through a successful transition and a fulfilling experience at their school. The perfect school for your child is one that provides a network of support for you and your family.



Campfire PROGRAM

ESD'S Campfire Program is designed to provide a network of support to students and families who desire additional help navigating academic and social dynamics, including onboarding into the ESD community, social and academic guidance, and campfire family events.

Learn more at esdallas.org/campfire





TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL THE OPPORTUNITIES.

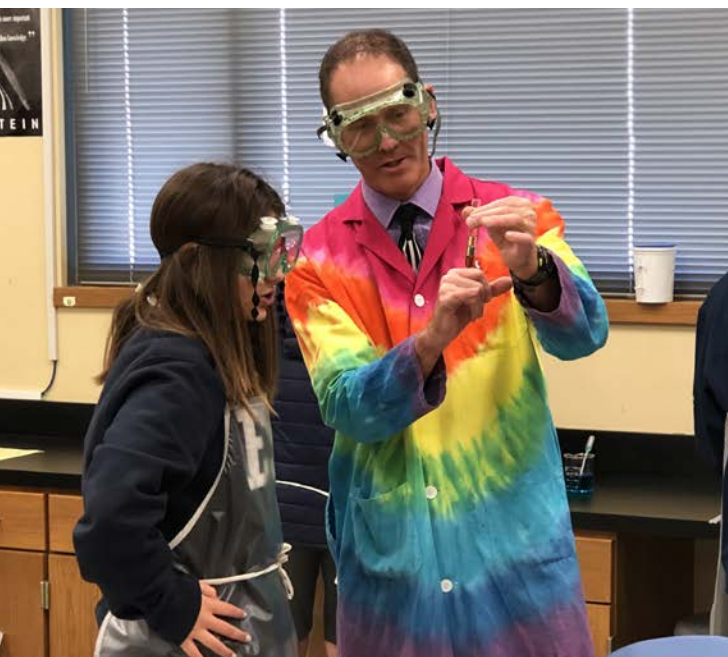
Encourage your child to get involved from the beginning. Sports, fine arts, and clubs are great ways to connect with other students who have similar interests. Some opportunities also exist over the summer, which gives your child another chance to connect with peers before the first day of school.

As a parent, it's also important for you to connect with the community. Reach out to the Parents Association and find ways to get involved. There's never a shortage of volunteer opportunities and ways to connect. Talking to current families is also a great way to learn more about the school and get pro tips!

Ultimately, the transition will be different for every family. When you take the time to research, visit, and find support within a school, you ensure that your child will have a more successful integration into their school of choice.

Be patient. Being the new family can feel awkward, but everyone has been in your shoes and wants to support you.





ABOUT THE AUTHOR

COREY HENDERSON is the Campfire Program Director, a program designed to support students and families from diverse backgrounds as they transition to ESD. Corey is also Admission Outreach Coordinator and Boys Basketball Program Director.

In service to ESD for the past 18 years, Corey's dedication to students sets the bar high. Corey reflects, "I want my students to not only see me succeed, I want them to see me get up when I get knocked down...to never deviate from my morals or waiver in my belief in God." Corey is a servant leader, both on and off the court.

Corey earned a Bachelor of Sociology degree from Texas A&M University. Prior to joining ESD, Corey played professional basketball overseas, coached Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) organizations, and served as Camp Director at The Kobe Bryant Academy.



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How To Choose A Private School

If you've decided you can afford a private school education, the next step is choosing a school. Download our free guide, "How to Choose a Private School: 10 Basic Factors Every Parent Should First Consider."



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Or visit www.esdallas.org/choosingaschool

7 Tips For Acing Your Private School Admission Interview

Is your child nervous about the private school admission interview process? Download our how-to guide and learn the seven tips for acing the interview. You may be surprised that it's not as intimidating as it may seem.

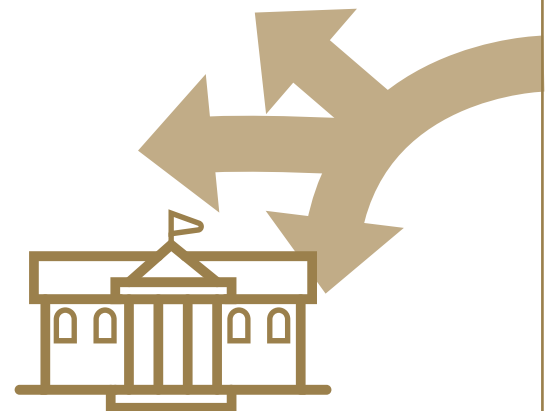


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The Top 8 Dilemmas of Admission Decision Season

Admission decisions can be an exciting, disappointing, or confusing time for families. Learn everything you need to know about being accepted or denied to your school of choice, wait lists, and how to navigate the complexities of each scenario.



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