

School Options

School Options in America

- Public School
- Private School
- Homeschool

Public School - Pros

- **Convenience.** Proximity to home, availability of school bus transportation and other facts about public school make this an easy one on a daily basis.
- **Cost.** It's free so you don't have to think about pay for your kid's education.
- **It's the norm.** Kids will basically fit in with society after going through standard schooling.
- **Diversity.** Kids will get to meet all kinds of different people and will learn tolerance (eventually) for everyone.

Public School - Cons

- **Low quality of education.** Many people feel that public schools gear education to the lowest common denominator in the school which means that smart kids lose out.
- **Peer problems.** Kids may argue with peers or pick up bad habits in public schools where diversity is common.
- **Design of education.** The public school has a curriculum that doesn't really allow for individuality or input from the parent. Your kid will learn what the school says he will learn.

Private School - Pros

- **Higher quality of education.** These classes are generally geared towards college-bound kids.
- **Future opportunities.** Private schools look good on resumes and open doors. Kids from private school tend to stick together into adulthood and may help each other out with careers in the future.
- **Close community.** This close community extends to parents and teachers and creates a situation in which there are a lot of people looking out for your kid.
- **Less diversity.** Some parents prefer that their kids "stick to their own" so to speak.

Private School - Cons

- **Cost.** It's not going to be free to go here and you'll have to invest money in different activities throughout the year.
- **Time-intensive.** Parents are typically expected to be involved in volunteer efforts with the school which can take time.
- **Limited experiences.** The lack of diversity that is often encountered in public schools is a drawback when kids have to deal with a more diverse world.

Homeschool - Pros

- **Control over what your child learns.** You design the curriculum and it can be focused on the specific educational needs and level of your child.
- **Keeps the family closer.** You do more together and this means that you've got a bond that isn't as easy to achieve when your child is away at school all day.
- **Freedom and flexibility.** You can set a school schedule that suits your family, travel together when it's best for all of you and otherwise enjoy more flexibility in life together.

Homeschool - Cons

- **Very time-intensive.** You'll need to be your child's full-time teacher in addition to being a parent.
- **Difficult.** It's not easy to teach a kid everything that he or she needs to know.
- **Isolation.** The child and the rest of the family may feel isolated from a larger social group.
- **Limits opportunities.** Homeschooled kids can go to college but it's not as easy as when you've got standard transcripts from a more traditional school.
- **Problems separating school and home.** In terms of both time and discipline in the home, boundaries get blurred.

Alternative Options

- **Charter schools.** These are small non-profit schools where kids get the same basic education that they would at a public school and there's no cost to attend. However, the classes are smaller so there can be more parent involvement and more individual attention for the student.

Alternative Options

- **Magnet schools.** These are public schools that specialize in a particular area of study. There are magnet schools for technology, science, math, fine arts and even specialty schools like aviation studies. These are good for people who need a basic education but who are interested in niche areas; these classes often have a higher quality of education.

Alternative Options

- **Private tutor.** People who like the idea of homeschooling but don't have the time to do it themselves may find that they would like to pay someone to tutor the child in the home setting.

Alternative Options

- **Mixture of options.** Some kids do best when they are able to combine different options to complete their education. For example, a high school student may attend traditional classes for half the day but then go to a magnet program or homeschool classes in the afternoon.