

Family Needs Summary

How to Use This Summary:

- Use this checklist to help identify your family's most important characteristics for choosing a school. If needed, you'll find more help identifying your family's needs in *Picky Parent Guide*.
- Write an "M" in the square box beside needs that are Must Haves: truly essential for your child's school to address. Most families will have a small number of Must Haves.
- Write an "N" in the square box beside other needs that are Nice to Haves: not essential, but helpful for school to address.
- Leave empty boxes beside items not important for choosing a school for your child, because either (1) an item is not important for your family or (2) you do not need *school* to address an item.
- Record Must Haves and top Nice to Haves on your *Personalized Great Fit Checklist*.

WHAT YOUR CHILD LEARNS

ALUES ABOUT WHAT CONTENT IS IMPORTANT: a Must Have if you strongly value a subject and need for school to cover it. Mark Must Haves ("M") and Nice to Haves ("N") below:

Core academic subjects (reading, writing, math)

Other academic subjects (foreign language, etc. – make your own list of subjects you value)

Morals, ethics, character, religion

Other non-academic: social, emotional and physical development

Other topics important to you

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Continues...

HOW OUR CHILD LEARNS...continued

VALUES ABOUT

SOCIAL ISSUES

PARENT COMMUNITY: a Must Have if you want your child's school to have parents with particular characteristics (make a list and check preferred items below)

- Friends: Parents you already know?
- Neighbors: Neighborhood parents?
- Location: Parents from a particular neighborhood other than your own?
- Values: Same values as you? Which values?
- Social behavior and manners: Ways you want, or don't want, other parents to act?
- Social and economic status: Do you have preferences about the diversity or makeup of the parent community?
- Race and ethnicity: Do you have preferences about the diversity or makeup of the parent community?

PARENT INVOLVEMENT: a Must Have if you have a strong preference about the level and type of parent involvement in your child's school, including (check preferences, if any)

- Helping: helping with school's daily life (e.g., volunteering for classroom activities, media center, field trips)
- Decision making (e.g., volunteering as member of school advisory or governing board)
- Fundraising activities (see last item below, Money, about your own donation dollar amounts)

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SOCIAL ISSUES...continued

- STUDENT COMMUNITY:** a Must Have if you want your child's school to have students with particular characteristics (make a list and check preferred items below)
 - Friends: Want to keep your child with current friends? Seeking new friends for your child?
 - Neighbors: Your child's neighbors?
 - Location: Students from a particular neighborhood other than your own?
 - Values: Same values as you? Which values?
 - Social behavior and manners: Ways you want, or don't want, other students to act?
 - Student achievement: Higher, lower or same-performing students compared to your child?
 - Social and economic status: Preferences about the diversity or makeup of the student body?
 - Race and ethnicity: Preferences about the diversity or makeup of the student body?
 - Gender diversity: Do you want an all-boys or all-girls program for your child?
 - Other student characteristics you do or do not want?

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Must Have only if you would choose a certain school type (e.g., public, private, religious) or design over a different school of better quality and fit

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