WASHINGTON SCHOOL FINDER

A WORKSHEET FOR FAMILIES

Find a School That Fits

A school that works well for one child may not be the best fit for another. Use this worksheet to think about what your child needs, explore schools, and compare your choices.

01. THINK ABOUT YOUR CHILD

What does your child like?

How does your child learn best?

What help or support might your child need?

What do you want your child to feel at school?

02. FIND YOUR SCHOOL CHOICES

Start with your home school. Then use Washington School Finder to learn about other public schools that may be a good fit.

My home school:

Other schools I want to explore:

1.

2.

3.

03. CHECK THE RULES AND DATES

Each school district may have different forms, rules, and dates.

For each school, find out:

- ○ **How do I apply?**
- ○ **What is the deadline?**
- ○ **Is there a lottery or waitlist?**
- ○ **Do I need a transfer form?**
- ○ **Is transportation offered?**

A transfer or application is a request.
A spot is not always promised.

04. LEARN MORE

Use the school profile, visit the school, attend an open house, or call the school office.

- ○ **Read the school profile**
- ○ **Ask about programs and student support**
- ○ **Ask about buses and transportation**
- ○ **Ask about school hours and child care**
- ○ **Write down questions**

05. APPLY AND ENROLL

Applying is not the same as enrolling.

After your child receives a spot:

- ○ **Accept the spot by the deadline**
- ○ **Complete all enrollment forms**
- ○ **Share health and vaccine records**
- ○ **Share an IEP, 504 Plan, or other support plan**
- ○ **Make a transportation plan**

NEED HELP?

You can ask the school for a free interpreter.
All children have the right to attend public school, no matter their immigration status.

What to Look For in a School

IS MY CHILD LEARNING AND GROWING?

LOOK FOR:

- students taking part in lessons
- teachers checking student work
- reading, math, and student growth information
- help for students who need more support or harder work

ASK:

"How will I know if my child is learning?"

WILL MY CHILD GET THE HELP THEY NEED?

LOOK FOR:

- teachers and staff helping students
- small-group or quiet learning spaces
- support for students with disabilities
- support for students learning English
- advanced learning options

ASK:

"Who can my child go to when they need help?"

WILL MY CHILD FEEL SAFE AND WELCOME?

LOOK FOR:

- adults greeting students
- students who feel comfortable asking for help
- kind behavior between students and adults
- clean and cared-for spaces
- books and pictures that show many cultures and families

ASK:

"What happens when a child feels left out or unsafe?"

WILL THE SCHOOL WORK WITH OUR FAMILY?

LOOK FOR:

- a welcoming front office
- clear information about who to contact
- information in the languages families use
- staff who listen and answer questions

ASK:

"How will teachers share updates with me?"

DOES THE SCHOOL FIT OUR DAILY LIFE?

ASK ABOUT:

- school hours
- buses and transportation
- before- and after-school care
- meals
- programs and activities
- services your child needs

Ask about transportation before accepting a spot.
A bus may not be offered if you choose another school.

★ MY TOP THREE PRIORITIES

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Compare Your Choices

	SCHOOL 1	SCHOOL 2	SCHOOL 3
School Name			
Deadline			
What I like			
Does it meet my child's needs?	Yes / Maybe / Unsure	Yes / Maybe / Unsure	Yes / Maybe / Unsure
Transportation Plan			
Question(s) I still have			
My next step			

Use Washington School Finder to explore and compare public schools in King and Spokane counties.

WashingtonSchoolFinder.org