



# SCHOOL QUALITY CHECKLIST

High-quality schools should be environments where students feel safe and where they receive the academic, social, and emotional building blocks for success in college and their careers. What should you look for in a school to ensure that meets your child's learning needs and goals?

## PACING & STRUCTURE

- Ask to see a curriculum plan to ensure that topics you want to be covered are included.
- What grade level is my student working at? Make sure that the school work is challenging enough to keep your child engaged, but not so difficult that it frustrates them.
- How much and what kind of homework do I want my child to have?
- Does my child learn best by seeing, listening, or while moving? Ask the school to help you understand if their structure will be a good match for your child's learning style.
- How will the school keep my child motivated and on track in class?
- Does my child have any learning challenges? If so, what resources does the school have to help them reach their full potential?

## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

- If my student is experiencing a social or emotional issue outside of the school, is the school equipped to assist them with counseling services or other guidance?
- How are parents made aware of social and emotional support resources?
- How does the school support students in managing conflict?
- If my child has difficulty making friends, how will the school respond?
- What is the school's discipline policy?
- What is the school's suspension rate?
- How tolerant is the school?
- If my child has an IEP, does the school have the resources to support their needs?

## SAFE & NURTURING ENVIRONMENT

- Do students feel supported?
- Ask other parents if the school is responsive to questions and concerns.
- Are there ways to communicate with the teachers? Are they responsive to concerns?

## EXTRACURRICULAR & ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAMMING

- What extracurricular activities are available?
- What elective subjects are offered?
- What other programs will my student have access to?
- What programs do you have to prepare my student to pursue a career or attend a college?
- Do you have support services like tutoring or mentoring that will help my student make academic progress outside of the classroom?

CHECK OUT MORE  
GREAT RESOURCES AT  
[KIDSFIRSTCHICAGO.ORG](https://kidsfirstchicago.org)

## A NOTE ABOUT TEST SCORES & SCHOOL RATING

A school's test scores are not the only way to determine if it is high-quality. There may be other aspects for you to consider when choosing a school to meet your kid's needs. However, test scores can help you understand what's going on at a school. We encourage you to ask questions about students' learning and growth.

CPS's school rating and accountability system is currently being updated. A website with a broad variety of measures on schools will be available for families to view sometime in 2024. In the meantime, you can find valuable information about a school's performance, funding, and more at:

[GoCPS School Search](#)

[Illinois School Report Card](#)

**WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL'S SQRP RATING MEAN?** SQRP scores range on a 5 point scale from Level 1+ to Level 3. Level 1+ rated schools are the highest achieving schools while Level 3 are the lowest performing schools requiring the most intervention.