



KIDS FIRST CHICAGO

School Quality Check List

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 it is high-quality?

ACADEMIC RIGOR & STRUCTURE

WHAT SHOULD I ASK?

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ask to see a curriculum plan to ensure that topics you want to be covered are included. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 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. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | How much and what kind of homework do I want my child to have? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | How does my child learn best? Do they 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. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | How will the school keep my child motivated and on track in class? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Does my child have any learning challenges? If so, what resources does the school have to help them reach their full potential? |

A SAFE AND NURTURING ENVIRONMENT

WHAT SHOULD I ASK?

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Is the school environment safe? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Is the school community committed to ensuring they achieve their mission and vision for student success? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Do students feel supported? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ask other parents if the school is responsive to questions and concerns. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Are there ways to contact the teachers? Is it difficult? |

RECOGNITION OF SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL NEEDS

WHAT SHOULD I ASK?	<input type="checkbox"/>	What 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?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	How are parents made aware of social and emotional support resources?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	How does the school support students in managing conflict between peers?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	If my child has difficulty making friends, how will the school respond?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	What is the school's discipline policy?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	What is the school's suspension rate?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	How tolerant is the school?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	If my child has an IEP, does the school have the resources to support their needs?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	What 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?

EXTRACURRICULAR AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAMMING

WHAT SHOULD I ASK?	<input type="checkbox"/>	What extracurricular activities are available?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	What are some of the subjects offered?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	What other programs will my student have access to?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	What programs do you have to prepare my student to choose and attend a college?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	What programs do you have to help my student choose and pursue a career?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you have support services like tutoring or mentoring that will help my student make academic progress outside of the classroom?

A NOTE ABOUT TEST SCORES AND SCHOOL RATING

A school's test scores are not the be-all end-all in determining if an institution is high-quality. However, they can help you understand what's going on at the school. In Chicago, each school, regardless of school type, receives a School Quality Rating Policy (SQRP) score which, among other things, measures a school's attainment (and growth).

What does the school's SQRP rating mean? SQRP scores range on a 5 point scale from Level 1+ to Level 3. SQRP. Level 1+ rated schools are the highest achieving schools while Level 3 are the lowest performing schools requiring the most intervention.