

## WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU WORK WITH AN IECA MEMBER CONSULTANT

Whether it is a local day school, a junior boarding school, or boarding high school, parents consider independent school alternatives to their child's current school situation for a variety of reasons: the need for individualized attention; the desire for more structure and discipline to learn better work habits and study skills; or dissatisfaction with the quality of available educational options. Independent schools provide exciting learning environments, often away from immediate distractions, where students can thrive and learn to do more than they ever dreamed. The right school can provide countless academic and extra-curricular opportunities to maximize a child's potential and develop new interests, skills, and life-long friendships.

Independent schools differ in setting, size, boarding or day, philosophy, and structure. Teaching and discipline styles, religious affiliation, and the role of arts and athletics are additional elements that define each school. What other factors should be considered when choosing an independent school? How does your family know if your child will feel comfortable? Will the school adequately meet your child's unique needs? Who will be your child's friends and role models?

IECA member educational consultants are trained professionals who possess extensive knowledge of educational options. This expertise, combined with a caring approach to understanding your child, helps families identify a school which is both academically and socially appropriate.

## ABOUT THE INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS ASSOCIATION (IECA)

IECA was founded in 1976 as a non-profit, professional association of established educational consultants. As the nation's respected voice of the profession, IECA sets the standards, leads the discussion, and serves as the public face of educational consulting to the media, colleges, and other professionals.

IECA helps members update knowledge and maintain skills through meetings, workshops, training programs, and information exchange with colleges, schools, programs, and other consultants.

When a family chooses an independent educational consultant who is a member of IECA, they are assured that the consultant is experienced, highly trained, and committed to honest and ethical practices.



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*Excellence in Educational Planning*

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## SELECTING THE RIGHT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

ADVISING FAMILIES  
ON FINDING THE RIGHT FIT



INDEPENDENT  
EDUCATIONAL  
CONSULTANTS  
ASSOCIATION

## SELECTING THE RIGHT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

**An IECA member educational consultant meets personally with families to discuss their unique concerns.**

To find the right “fit” for your child, IECA consultants learn as much as possible about your student and family. They help you clarify your child’s educational needs, identify strengths and weaknesses, and consider interests and dislikes. Placing your child in an independent school can be an important decision, one which most often leads to an enriching experience. An IECA consultant can help facilitate the process of selecting the school in which your child can be happy and successful, and guide your family through the oftentimes overwhelming admissions process.



**IECA member consultants help you understand what to look for in a school.** Every school’s image is beautifully displayed in brochures, videos, or CD-ROMS, but how do you uncover the school’s true



profile? Because the IECA consultant knows your child well and has a thorough knowledge of which schools meet your family’s needs, he or she can formulate a customized list of appropriate options. The consultant can then point out specifics about each school such as admission criteria, student-teacher ratio, community expectations, dorm arrangements, academic and extra-curricular activities, and various other characteristics of the student body and school community which aid you in your decision.

**IECA member consultants have firsthand knowledge of boarding schools.**

IECA member consultants enhance their knowledge by touring hundreds of campuses, spending time meeting with admissions officers and often other key administrators, visiting classes and meeting current students, and



exploring schools’ living environments. This exploration of a school’s living environment and the connections that are made through such visits become real assets for an educational consultant’s knowledge base. Additionally, IECA members have valuable expertise resulting from years of educational planning with a variety of students.

**IECA member consultants serve the immediate and long-term interests of your child.**

Many IECA members also specialize in learning disabilities, special needs, and college planning, and can assist in formulating long-range goals for your child. The consultant can stay in touch with you and your child to ensure that the placement is successful and to assist you in developing an extended educational plan.

*An IECA member consultant listens to your special concerns, helps you thoroughly investigate the options, and can monitor your child’s progress to ensure a successful independent school experience.*

