

Educational Consultants Help Students Find the “Right” School/Program

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In these uncertain economic times, many families face competing goals: providing the education and support their child needs to thrive and succeed, but to do so in an affordable way that doesn't compromise the family's financial stability. Evidence suggests that a good educational consultant is a family's best ally in meeting both of these demands.

How an Independent Educational Consultant Helps Your Family

Finding the right school or college is one of the most important decisions your family will make. A correct choice will enrich and enhance your student's life, and can impact his or her future. Finding the right fit, however, can be daunting. That is where an IECA member educational consultant plays a vital role. Fewer than half of all students who begin college as a freshman will graduate from that same college. Similar numbers exist in independent schools. Too many students discover, only after spending considerable time and expense that the school they enrolled in was not a good match. Families working with consultants are far more likely to find the “right” school, college or program, saving considerable time and money.

IECA member consultants can be trusted to meet your family's needs because they have met the highest standards in the profession. IECA's required qualifications include: a master's degree; at least three years of admissions counseling experience; and experience working with scores of students before we will consider their applications for membership. We also require extensive campus visits—our members, on average, have visited over 150 campuses each, and continue to visit an average of 35 campuses annually.

Consultants are first and foremost advocates for student success. They are not affiliated with any institution or program. Consultants help your family identify the learning environment that best suits the individual needs of your student. They offer unbiased help in evaluating the pros and cons of every institution, and help sort through the glut of information that can be overwhelming.

Consultants are specialists. They bring a vast knowledge to their practice with experience in secondary and higher education, school and college admissions, counseling and psychology. Depending on their specialty, some are experienced in all areas of school placement. Others focus on particular age groups or issues such as learning differences, behavioral problems, or overseas placements. IECA members pride themselves on their first-hand knowledge of educational institutions. They visit campuses to learn about their unique academic, athletic, housing and community features, and continually keep up-to-date on changes and admission trends.

Consultants provide individual attention to the student and family. They will help you choose the school, college or program that provides the best environment for your student's educational, social, and personal growth. With their extensive knowledge of schools and colleges, consultants can broaden the potential choices, and provide vital help in weighing factors such as cost, location and curriculum. With a consultant, your student has the opportunity to explore a

wider variety of options and discuss possibilities in a meaningful way, including the real costs of schooling, financial aid, and merit aid. Because they are not tied to any specific school or college, IECA member consultants are not burdened with unrelated duties, and are available at the family's convenience—not just during school hours during the school year.

What to Expect

Independent educational consultants begin with an evaluation, to help your student identify strengths and weaknesses, as well as educational objectives, choices, and plans.

Testing: When appropriate, the consultant will recommend testing for purposes of psychological or academic assessment. Consultants may either administer these tests themselves, or make a referral to other professionals for testing.

Options: The consultant will work with your family to consider the full range of educational possibilities, and provide a broad selection of pertinent information for consideration.

Advice: Consultants give students and families unbiased advice and recommendations based on their professional judgement of a student's needs and abilities. IECA member consultants are compensated directly by their clients, and do not receive any compensation from educational institutions.

Principles of Good Practice of the Independent Educational Consultants Association

All members of IECA must adhere to the following principles:

The consultant's primary obligation is to represent each student accurately, based upon a professional evaluation of the circumstances and requirements of each client's educational and social needs. The consulting relationship does not imply guarantee of specific placement.

The consultant does not accept compensation from any educational institutions for placement of a child, and avoids any action that may even give the appearance of soliciting or accepting compensation.

The consultant shall respect the integrity of the consulting relationship, and of all relevant information protecting the privacy of the family.

The consultant shall present to the family the most appropriate choices, representing each one fairly.

The consultant shall make clear the client's responsibilities in dealing with any schools, colleges, or institutions.

The consultant strives to be cognizant of, but does not discriminate based on cultural, individual, and role differences which may arise from such factors as age, race, gender, language, religion, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and socioeconomic level.

For more information, go to www.IECAonline.com or contact us at info@IECAonline.com for a brochure.