

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 concern over 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 extracurricular opportunities to maximize a child's potential and develop new interests, skills, and life-long friendships.

Independent schools differ in setting, size, philosophy, and structure. Teaching and discipline styles, religious affiliation, and the role of arts and athletics are additional elements that define each. What other factors should be considered when choosing a 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 that is academically, socially, and financially appropriate.

About the Independent Educational Consultants Association (IECA)

IECA was founded in 1976 as a non-profit, professional association of established independent 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 independent educational consulting to the media, colleges, and other professionals. 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 the profession's highest standards for ethical practices.

IECA members help find the right school, college, or program for your student. IECA member educational consultants are independent from educational institutions, never accept payment from a school or program in exchange for placement, and work only in the best interest of the student and the family.

To find an IECA member, search our online database at www.IECAonline.com or call our office for a free copy of our print directory: 703-591-4850.



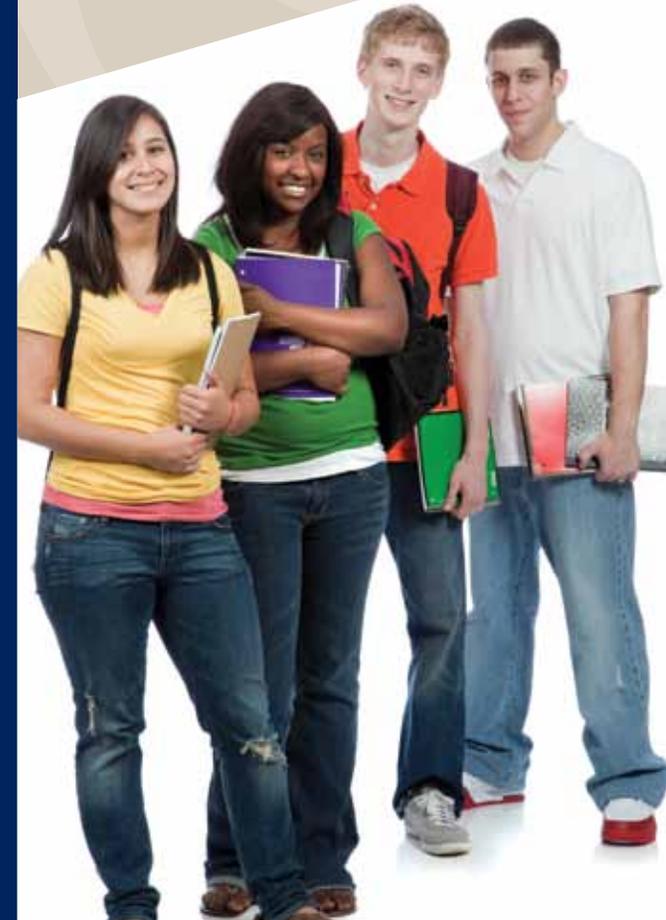
Independent Educational Consultants Association

3251 Old Lee Highway • Suite 510
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
703-591-4850
www.IECAonline.com
info@IECAonline.com



Selecting the Right School

Advising Families on Finding the Right Fit



An IECA member educational consultant meets with a family to understand their child's unique skills and needs to develop a personal educational plan.

To find the right fit school for your child, an IECA member learns 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 that 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. By guiding your family through the oftentimes overwhelming admissions process and focusing on the right match for your child, using an IECA member can also save you time, energy, and valuable resources.

IECA member consultants help you understand what to look for in a school.

When beginning a school search, many families find it difficult to distinguish between available boarding and day options. All schools strive to promote the positive aspects of their academic and social environments, but how do you uncover the school's true profile to know if it's the right choice for your child? By spending the time it takes to get to know your child, the IECA educational consultant will thoroughly research which environments meet your family's needs, while formulating a customized list of appropriate options. The IECA member will then

review specifics about each school, including admission criteria, student-teacher ratio, community expectations, school culture, dorm arrangements, academic and extra-curricular activities, diversity, and various other characteristics of the student body and school community which will aid you in your decision.

IECA member consultants have firsthand knowledge of schools.

IECA members enhance their knowledge by touring hundreds of campuses, spending time meeting with admissions officers and other key staff, visiting classes and meeting current students. When researching boarding schools, IECA consultants spend a significant amount of time exploring the residential facilities and out-of-classroom activities and options. The importance of these factors can not be overemphasized, as IECA consultants are well-versed in what questions to ask and what to see during their visits. To better serve their client families, IECA educational consultants engage in ongoing professional development that keeps them current in educational trends. The expertise of IECA members is the result of years of experience placing students with a range of academic and extracurricular talents and interests, varying socioeconomic backgrounds, learning styles, cultures, and nationalities in a variety of educational settings.



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

Many IECA members also specialize in gifted and talented students, learning differences, therapeutic needs, gap year, and college and post-secondary planning, and can assist in formulating long-range plans and goals for your child. The IECA member consultant will stay in touch with you and your child to ensure that the placement is successful and can 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.