

# WHAT KIND OF SCHOOL IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

## INDEPENDENT PRIVATE SCHOOLS



### Characteristics:

- Accountable to their communities
- Accredited by state-approved accrediting bodies
- Governed by an independent board of trustees
- Primarily supported through tuition payments and charitable contributions
- Vary in size and educational approach

### Advantage:

- Teachers have the freedom to create educational experiences that meet each child's needs, without state mandates on curriculum, textbooks, and testing.
- Mission-driven education
- High academic standards
- Nurture intellectual curiosity, stimulate personal growth, encourage critical thinking, and promote a lifelong love of learning.
- Low student-teacher ratios
- In addition to academics, independent schools also nurture students' personal and social growth -- character development

### Facts:

- Financial assistance available
- Students of color made up 33.3 percent of total enrollment
- High school graduation rates that exceed public school
- Increased college attendance rates

## CHARTER SCHOOLS



### Characteristics:

- Independently managed, publicly funded
- Held to State Academic and Financial Accountability Standards like Traditional Public Schools
- Freedom of Choice in Mission & Model
- Specialized Curriculum, Courses and Approaches
- Held accountable for student performance.

### Advantage:

- Serves a wide variety of students
- No Admission Requirements; must Accept All Students; Lottery held if not enough available seats
- Prepare students for four-year college degree

## DALLAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS



### Characteristics:

- Transformation Schools, Innovation Schools, Magnet Schools
- Financed through federal, state, and local taxes, public schools
- Single-sex schools; humanities, communication, & leadership schools, IB schools, Montessori schools, STEM/STEAM schools, Two-Way Dual Language, Personalized Learning Schools
- Must follow state guidelines that set out specific standards and assessment procedures.

### Advantage:

- Public schools must accept all students
- Public school teachers have comparably more classroom experience and qualifications
- All teachers are state certified
- School districts have special education programs and teachers who are trained to work with special-needs students.

## FINE ARTS MAGNETS



### Characteristics:

- Part of the local public school system
- Promote a theme or special curricular focus
- Diverse teaching methodologies
- Receive additional funding to maintain their specialized programs

### Advantage:

- Flexible, innovative curriculum
- Teachers are highly specialized and may go through more training and professional development.
- Smaller class sizes
- The opportunity to perform in the public arena or display their arts to the public that they wouldn't be exposed to in many traditional school settings

**SCHOOL CHOICE**