



Find a School Your Kiddo Loves

If you are considering transferring your child to a new school, you're not alone. Transferring schools is a process, and being organized can help make it smoother. Here's a step-by-step guide to help families navigate the search for a new school.

Step 1: What Are Your Priorities?

Before researching schools, you need to decide what your family needs in a school. You do this by creating two clear lists.

Non-Negotiables: What Your Child Needs

Make a list of the essential services or features a school must have for your kiddo to thrive.

Examples include:

- Transportation services
- Special education programs or support services
- Medical services or on-site health care
- Language support or bilingual programs
- Safety protocols

Preferences: What Your Family Wants

These are features that would enhance your kiddo's school experience, but are not dealbreakers.

Examples include:

- A particular teaching style or curriculum
- Sports teams or arts programs
- After-school programs or extended day options
- Flexible scheduling (half days, block scheduling)
- School uniforms
- Outdoor spaces or nature programs

Making this list will give you clarity as you begin to find different school options.

Step 2: Research Schools in Your Area

Once you know what you're looking for, research schools near you. Use online school finder tools, district websites, or local maps to see what's available.

Questions to consider while researching:

- Does the school meet your **needs** list?
- Does it have any **wants** that would be a bonus?
- Is there transportation available?
- What is the school's mission?
- Are there enrollment deadlines or application requirements?

Need help? Love Your School maintains and updates a list of schools in the area, so reach out to us if you want help locating a school. You can also send us your Wants & Needs list, and we can help by recommending schools to you. Just reach out to hello@loveyourschool.org.

Step 3: Schedule a School Tour

Visiting a school in person can give you more insight than what you would see online.

During the tour, you can:

- Meet school administrators and teachers
- See the classroom and learning spaces
- Ask questions about the curriculum, programs, and services
- Experience the school culture
- Get a feel for how the students and staff interact
- Ask specific questions from your Wants & Needs list

Tours also give your kiddo a chance to see the environment and imagine themselves there.

Step 4: Compare Your Options

After touring, write down the pros and cons of each school.

Helpful reflection questions:

- Why does this school feel like a good fit?
- Why does this school not feel like a good fit?
- Are there any concerns?
- What support is available for my kiddo's needs?
- How does the school community feel?

This process can help you make a decision with confidence.

Step 5: Apply - Even if There's a Waitlist!

Once you have chosen a school, complete the application or enrollment process.

If the school has a waitlist, apply anyway! Many families are accepted off waitlists as the slots open up. Also, you can stay on multiple waitlists at once to keep your options open.

Final Tip: You Don't Have to Navigate This Alone

Finding the right school can be overwhelming, but you don't have to do this by yourself! We're here to support you in the process. If you'd like help exploring schools, creating a needs/wants list, or understanding your options, reach out to us at hello@loveyourschool.org!