



# ISMK Education Resource

Your Education Questions Answered

## **DEAR MISSIONARY FAMILY:**

When you follow God's call to be a missionary, making decisions for your child's educational needs can be challenging. This resource is designed to help you learn about the schooling options available to your family, create a long-range educational plan, and provide valuable resources regarding your child's education.

It is important that you begin to think about and understand your child's learning process and their long-range educational needs. Your long-range plans should consider your child's current grade through high school graduation. You will need to think about your place of ministry and how it may affect your child's educational needs.

Your field of ministry could partially determine the schooling options for your child. Some fields have readily available education options, while others are more limited. Depending on your length of service, you may need to use more than one schooling option for your child.

It is important for you to be a student of your child and know his/her developmental and educational needs. This will help you understand what kind of educational environment is best suited for each child. Every child is different and may need a different option.

The ISMK Education Team is available to assist you as you research and plan for your child's education needs. We have access to education specialists and resources and want your transition overseas to be a smooth, positive one. Please feel free to contact our office with questions.

## **HERE ARE SOME OF THE EDUCATION SERVICES THE ISMK EDUCATION TEAM PROVIDES:**

- Conferencing, dialog, and support provided through email, phone, social media
- Retreat/Summer Program testing and support—certified to provide grade level assessments and some testing for learning disabilities; also available for dialog
- Regional Education Consultants available
- Connecting with education specialists who can provide phone/on-site support for children with special needs
- Assist with developing a 504 or Individualized Education Plan (IEP) if needed
- Connection of resources from other organizations for information and support
- Homeschooling helps (communicate with state-side companies on your behalf)
- Provide general schooling options and resources

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Serving your MKs,

The ISMK Education Team

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## EDUCATION PLAN PRELIMINARY QUESTIONNAIRE

- What schooling options will be available during our term of service?
- How will I prepare for my child's schooling overseas including: budget, curriculum, materials, records, testing?
- What is my plan A?
- If plan A doesn't work out, what is my plan B?
- Do I think my child will come back to the U.S. for college?
- What does returning to the U.S. involve academically for my child?
- Will my child's education involve an all English based educational system, or will it be a dual or national educational system?
- If we use national schools, what is the philosophy of the national educational system for achievement (child-centered or system-centered)?
- If my child has been in a national school and speaks another language, how does that affect/change their college preparation?
- If my child has special education needs (i.e. an IEP or 504 plan), can I find needed services at a school in my country of assignment?
- If my child takes medication for education/behavioral purposes, can I obtain that medication in my country of assignment?

## SCHOOLING OPTIONS DEFINED

This resource provides information about the variety of schooling options that may be available for your child/ren. Individual sections for each schooling type defined below include questions to consider and resources to assist you in making the best education decision for your family.

**National Schools:** refers to local schools in the nation in which you live (similar to a U.S. public or private school). Most teach in the national language. They can provide deep linguistic and cultural understanding and would be a good option if your child is planning on pursuing further education overseas rather than returning to the U.S. for college/university.

**International Schools:** private schools which may be either secular or Christian and primarily enroll children of expatriates (including missionary, military, and business families) and some nationals. The curriculum is usually American or British. Many schools offer extracurricular activities.

**MK Schools:** are usually managed by one or more mission organizations. The curriculum is often American and from a Christian world view. Can range in size from very small to large and often provide a “family” feeling among students and faculty.

**Boarding Schools:** offer living accommodations to students whose families live a long way from the school. You may choose this option if you do not have access to a local school and feel your child would benefit from a classroom setting.

**Home/Internet/Correspondence Schools:** involves one-on-one instruction from parent to child; may also include internet classes. Curriculum is usually purchased from the U.S. and can include online courses. Families may choose this option out of necessity, family values, special education services, or the variety of options it provides.

**Post-Secondary & IB Education Plan:** This section will help you think through critical information to help prepare your child for transitions to college/university, attending a technical school, selecting a career, or taking a gap-year after high school graduation before going on to pursue additional education or a career. **The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program** offers high quality international education programs to a worldwide community of schools. Students will receive a diploma that allows them to enter a university in their country of birth or give them access to virtually any university they might choose around the world.

**Language Schools:** If you are required to attend language school before ministering full-time in your country of service, your Regional Office will most likely assign the school you will attend. It is standard for your MK(s) to attend a school nearby. Your Regional Office will be able to give you information about your MK’s education during your language school training. Schooling for your children in this setting can assist with language acquisition and cultural adjustments.

## **Article: Making an Educational Plan**

*Parents Teaching Overseas* (June 1996) *By Sharon Haag*

*The article below will help you think about an educational plan for your child. Read the article, look at the sample education chart, and fill out a chart for your family (pg. 12).*

### **Family Education Plan**

We believe when God calls parents into ministry with dependent children, He calls the whole family. The model of healthy family relationships can communicate biblical principles even when language barriers prevent verbal communication. Children can enhance your ministry—and God wants to use your ministry situation to enhance the development and growth of your children.

### **Schooling Options**

The schooling options you choose for your children play a major role in who they become, “educating” them in areas far beyond academics. Each option has unique strengths and benefits, and the choices you make require as much prayer and wisdom from the Lord as any other ministry-related decision.

At different times in a family’s ministry responsibilities and at different ages or transition periods, different schooling options may be more helpful in a child’s development. Remaining open to reevaluating options and never saying “Never!” can result in more comprehensive preparation for life.

Home teaching is strong in opportunity to impart family values and in flexibility to meet individual learning and family needs. National schools help children quickly learn the local language and build relationships in the community. Small, multi-grade mission schools provide homey atmospheres for developing strong friendships and learning to be productive members of groups.

Larger school settings often provide instruction or mentorship in special ability areas as well as “halfway steps” to cultural adjustment in the passport country. Attending a secular school can develop strength for standing firm and can be a training ground for becoming “salt and light” in the world. Any school setting helps children learn to relate to authority figures other than their parents—a key skill in the world of work.

Every schooling option provides richness in ways others cannot. No one schooling option is broad enough to encourage development of all the skills, abilities, and attitudes you will want your children to acquire to be ready to live independently when that time comes. This is especially true if your children spend most of their growing up years in an isolated setting overseas and you want them to be prepared to live successfully one day in your home country. Above all, look for comprehensiveness and balance over your children’s total school career.

### **Planning Ahead**

Many families facing schooling choices have been challenged and encouraged by developing a “family educational plan.” This helps them focus on their long-term values and goals for their children. It helps them to be aware and take advantage of the different schooling options that will support them in fostering this broad range of skills, attitudes, and values.

## ***Continue Article: Making an Educational Plan***

Getting caught up in day-to-day “survival” and just getting through the current year can make it easy to lose sight of long-term goals, to miss out on addressing some of the most important areas in which children need to develop. The family educational plan can help keep broad, long-term goals in view.

First, list goals you have for your child(ren). List which skills, attitudes, and abilities you want your child(ren) to develop, both to live richly in the overseas setting and to take with them when they graduate and move out on their own. These are some of the values/goals parents have listed:

### **Academic**

- Make good academic progress, to extent of abilities
- Develop independent study skills and lifelong learning skills
- Develop competence and ethics in use of technology
- Be exposed to a variety of career options
- Develop areas of giftedness

### **Cross-Cultural**

- Make national friends
- Learn host-country language
- Develop culture adaptation skills
- Value host culture
- Value passport culture
- Have strong ties to people and places in passport country

### **Relational**

- Develop strong family relationships (including extended family)
- Have good relationships with other members of the Body of Christ
- Use personal gifts of service/ministry to the Body of Christ
- Trust God in personal hardship; display perseverance

### **Work-Related**

- Be prepared for higher education institutions of choice
- Be able to work under authorities who do not share the same values
- Be able to work in groups (i.e. leadership skills and team work)
- Develop good work habits

### **Life**

- Develop independent living skills for passport country
- Be emotionally mature and stable; be resilient
- Take advantage of unique host-country learning opportunities

Second, ask yourself how different schooling options might be particularly strong or weak in encouraging growth toward the goals you’ve listed.

Third, use a chart to plot what you anticipate the circumstances of your lives might be during your children’s schooling years.

## Directions for Completing the Chart

1. Write your children’s names in boxes on the left side of the chart.
2. Across the top, list the school years (i.e. 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22) from now through the time your youngest will graduate from high school.
3. In the “Location” row, jot down what you anticipate your ministry situation to be during each of those years (i.e., itineration, language school, field assignment).
4. In the row beside each child’s name, enter grade or level he/she will be in each year.
5. Examine the columns under each year on the chart. What might your life look like that year regarding ministry, living, and schooling responsibilities? What schooling options do you think you can handle, and which might best meet the needs of each child and your goals for him/her that year? Keeping the answers to these questions in mind, write the options you think you might choose each year in the row beside each child’s name.
6. Discuss the chart as a couple. Be open to reevaluate and adjust as circumstances and needs change.

### Sample Educational Planning Chart

School YR	2019-2020		2020-2021		2021–2022		2022–2023	
Location	Itineration		Language School		On Field		On Field	
Child	Grade	School	Grade	School	Grade	School	Grade	School
John	11	Public	12	Homeschool				
Sue	10	Public	11	Homeschool	12	MK School		
Mary	9	Public	10	Homeschool	11	MK School	12	MK School

### Issues to Consider

The early years in ministry are the best time for your children to learn the national language and build relationships in the culture. Also, if they will be living away from you later, it helps them feel more involved in the ministry if they know the people you are ministering to and understand what their lives are like.

### Relationships

Research on hundreds of adult MKs from many missions showed that those who felt they were involved in their parents’ ministries had better life satisfaction as adults. Further, the research showed that living at boarding schools was not a significant factor in relation to later life satisfaction. Of far more significance was the quality of a child’s relationship with his/her parents.

### Identity

The teen years are key in the process of identity development. Many parents find that when their child attends a national school or is isolated from home country peers during teen years, that child does not want to identify themselves as citizens of their passport country as adults. Building close relationships with a variety of Christian adults helps teens “separate” from their parents and encourages them to claim Christian beliefs and values as their own as they see them modeled in other adults they admire.

## **Itineration**

Make careful notes when your itineration will fall in each child's schooling. List goals that need to be addressed during itineration. What goals cannot be addressed nearly as well in the overseas setting? Many MKs find the middle school/junior high years the most difficult for adjustment in U.S. school settings. What can be done to improve those difficulties? (i.e. Help children build strong friendships in that setting and a history of successful adjustments during earlier furloughs; select the school setting or option with special care; time the furlough differently for more vulnerable children, etc.)

## **Transitions**

Pay special attention to the last year of high school and first year of college. Most MKs want to spend their last year where their friends are and graduate with them. They also seem to need easy access to strong parental support during the first year of college. It may not be possible for families to time itineration to meet these needs/desires for each of their children.

### **What can be done to prepare MKs to make this transition without your physical presence?**

- Build strong relationships during earlier itineration with families whose values you share and who could
- "Adopt" your children if you're not there
- Allow your child to spend the summer before the final year living with a family in your home country where he or she could hold a job, open a bank account, live on a budget, get a driver's license
- Practice many of the independent living skills which will be needed for that transition

Every situation is different, and every child is different. What one family chooses may not be the best for another family. Praise God we have His Spirit to guide us in the overwhelming task of raising children to honor Him! What a comfort to know He promises wisdom but doesn't expect perfection. He can take both good and bad decisions and use them to help you *grow* as a family, so you may also more effectively *serve* Him as a family.

# My Child's Long-Range Educational Plan

Use the space below to list goals for your child. You can make copies of this page for multiple children.

## Academic Goals

- 
- 
- 
- 

## Cross-Cultural Goals

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- 
- 
- 

## Relational Goals

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- 
- 
- 

## Work/Career Goals

- 
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- 
- 

## Life Goals

- 
- 
- 
-

# Educational Planning Chart

Use the blank chart below to fill in each of your children's names and grades and what type of schooling you anticipate using for each school year.

School YR								
Location								
Child	Grade	School	Grade	School	Grade	School	Grade	School

School YR								
Location								
Child	Grade	School	Grade	School	Grade	School	Grade	School

School YR								
Location								
Child	Grade	School	Grade	School	Grade	School	Grade	School

## ISMK Long-Range Educational Plan

*This chart is used during Candidate Orientation, Missionary Training, and Missionary Renewal during ISMK Education Consultant meetings. Your consultant will discuss this plan with you and help you fill in this information during your meeting.*

Family Name: _____	Date: _____
Host Country: _____	Term Length: _____
Child's Name: _____	Age: _____ Grade: _____
Child's Name: _____	Age: _____ Grade: _____
Child's Name: _____	Age: _____ Grade: _____
Child's Name: _____	Age: _____ Grade: _____
Child's Name: _____	Age: _____ Grade: _____

### Which type of schooling options will be employed?

\_\_\_\_\_ Home School with parent as teacher  
Curriculum: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Homeschool co-op or "one room schoolhouse" (teacher)  
Curriculum: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ International School  
School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ National School  
School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Boarding School  
School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Combination of \_\_\_\_\_  
Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Home-based distance learning (internet, correspondence, other)  
Description: \_\_\_\_\_

*In the space provided below, write in each child's educational plan, include type of schooling, location, and educational goals.*

### **Elementary Years:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Elementary to Middle School transition plan: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Middle School Years:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Middle to High School transition plan: \_\_\_\_\_

### **High School Years:**

\_\_\_\_\_ High School to College transition plan: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Post-Secondary Ed Years (i.e. Gap year, College, Career):**

\_\_\_\_\_

## Questions for Parents to Consider

\_\_\_\_\_ Family Educational Values/Ministry Involvement

\_\_\_\_\_ Bilingual/Multilingual Education

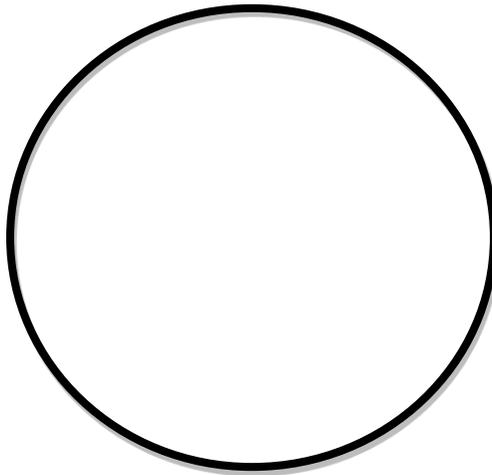
\_\_\_\_\_ Yearly Basic Skills Assessment

\_\_\_\_\_ Portfolio/Educational History

\_\_\_\_\_ Personality/Character

\_\_\_\_\_ Special Needs (attention span (ADD/ADHD), delayed speech, language difficulties (Dyslexia), Gifted/Talented and Autism.

**TRANSITION MODEL**



## **Building Your Child's Education Portfolio**

A portfolio is a collection of your child's school work, test scores, and school calendars. It is very important for you to create a portfolio for each child, even if he/she is not homeschooled. If school records are lost, if a school closes, if you are forced to evacuate a country, or if you are relocated it will be critical to keep the information listed below.

Your child's portfolio will be used for multiple purposes including: assessment for grade placement in a U.S. school, college application, work application to show experience, etc. When you return to the U.S. and the public-school system assesses your child, a portfolio will give them a complete picture of your child's strengths and weaknesses.

### **Why do I need an education portfolio for my child?**

- Current trends in U.S. education
  - Complete, accurate assessment
  - Demonstrating an understanding of content
  - Showing multiple areas of strength/intelligence
- Provides a true picture of child's overall performance
  - Shows more than percentages and test scores
  - Shows child's unique personality beyond academics
- Provides growth comparison
  - Evaluation tools: Where am I? Where have I been?
  - Builds self-worth and confidence/promotes personal growth
  - Highlights personal strengths
- Records child's work/builds and preserves memories
  - Assists homeschooling parents with planning
  - Bridges the gap for national schooling families
  - Helps parents be a stronger advocate for their child

### **How can I use my child's portfolio?**

- During itineration
  - Assists in school placement of children
  - Helps school understand child's educational background
- During reentry
  - College admission
  - Placement—helps college advisors and guidance personnel
- In applying for jobs
  - Demonstrates skills and experiences
  - Some professions require it

## How do I start building my child's portfolio?

- Start by keeping general information about each school your child attends. This information should be kept in a safe place with other important documents like passports and birth certificates. We also recommend you save this information electronically and give a backup copy to a family member in the U.S.
  - Name of school
  - Address
  - Phone and/or website contact
  - Dates your child attended that school

*If you choose to homeschool and do not have a report card or school transcript, this is a sample chart of the type of information to track for your child's portfolio. Be sure to list all curriculum pieces used and the final grade in that level or if it was completed.*

Name	Curriculum	Address	Website	Publisher	Name of Book	Grade/Level completed	Final Grade
Jane	Horizons			Alpha/Omega	Math 1	1 <sup>st</sup> grade	A
John	A Beka			A Beka	English Lang/Arts	6 <sup>th</sup> grade	B

- Items to keep in your child's portfolio:
  - Official yearly transcripts and report cards. Copies should also be stored with other important family documents.
  - Samples of your child's school work (yearly) to keep in their portfolio:
    - 4–5 samples of math worksheets
    - 4–5 writing samples from English and/or other language classes
    - Photo or documentation of science fair projects
    - Samples of projects or writing samples from history, government, civic classes
    - Examples of extra-curricular activities (i.e. awards, photos, etc.)
    - Samples of artwork or creative projects

It is not necessary to keep large quantities of each child's work. You should keep a sampling each year that shows the child's growth and progress and the classes and activities in which he/she was involved. You only need to keep the final report card/grades for each year of school. Be sure to develop your plan for how you will store each child's portfolio and transport that content when you travel to and from the U.S. or other countries.

*See the Article: Placement Testing (pg. 44) for more details about portfolio content.*

## **Budgets and Education During Itineration**

### **Your Education Budget**

As you plan your missions' budget, it is important that you do some research for your child's education costs. Once you have chosen a schooling type for your child, your Area Director should be able to provide a rough amount for schooling costs. We recommend that you add extra funds in your budget in addition to tuition costs to fully cover your child's education costs. For example, there may be additional costs for things like extracurricular activities, field trips, school fees, language study, and application costs. Your child should be able to obtain an education comparable to what they would receive in the U.S.

Most cost information should be readily available on the school's internet site or by emailing the school directly. Our minimum recommendation for education costs is \$3,000 per child, per year. This amount may be greater depending on tuition costs per school, but we do not recommend you budget below this amount.

Homeschooling costs can be different than traditional school options. It is important that you communicate with your Area Director and/or Regional Director about what education supplies are covered in your budget. Some costs that may be approved to include in your homeschooling budget include: curriculum and shipping costs, customs/import duty charges, computer, DVD player, extracurricular activities, internet for online school, etc. You want to make sure you budget enough for each child and all the costs associated with homeschooling. Keep in mind that even if you have homeschooled in the U.S., your costs will most likely be higher teaching in the same format overseas.

### **Education During Itineration**

Before returning to the U.S. it is important that you plan for your child's education during itineration or any long-term stay in the U.S.

If you have been homeschooling your child while living overseas you may choose to continue homeschooling during itineration. However, you may be responsible for homeschooling costs out-of-pocket while residing in the U.S. Check your Missionary Handbook for MK Education policies.

If your child has been attending a national school, it will be important to prepare them for the transition to a U.S. public school if you choose that option. Your child will need to be able to read, write, and speak fluent English to enroll in the U.S. public school system.

Consult your AGWM Missions Manual and Regional Office for the most up-to-date policies on education expenses while on itineration. You should plan several months before your return to the U.S. what type of schooling option you will choose for your child and research needed information to enroll them in school either prior to, or upon your return.

## Educational Planning Seminars

Some organizations provide educational planning seminars to help you understand your child's special learning style and needs and help you determine the best direction for your child's education. Costs for some seminars may be a (00) approved expense. Check with your Regional Office or AGWM Financial Specialist for details about what is approved.

### **AERC**

[www.asiaerc.org](http://www.asiaerc.org)

Provides services and support to Christian worker families in Asia, especially those using home, national, or online schools. Hosts education conferences in Asia, including workshops, personal consultations, testing services, and resource centers.

### **Interaction International**

[www.interactionintl.org](http://www.interactionintl.org)

Hosts 2 pre-field educational planning seminars annually. Helps parents make education decisions overseas including: options, national schools, creating a workable educational plan, homeschooling, selecting curriculum, and helping children with transitions.

### **National Institute for Learning Development**

[nild.org/](http://nild.org/)

Provides conferences, testing, articles, and support for families of children with special educational needs.

### **SHARE Education Services**

[www.shareeducation.org](http://www.shareeducation.org)

Helps English-speaking families living in Europe, Russia, Central Asia, and the Middle East with their children's educational needs. Offers conferences throughout the year. Conferences include workshops, resources, private consultations, and educational assessments for children using achievement or diagnostic testing.

## General Education Resources

### **ACSI**

[www.acsi.org](http://www.acsi.org)

Association of Christian Schools International provides leadership and oversight for country/region schools around the world. These offices support the national Christian school movement in their areas and maintain school membership within each country.

### **Anchor**

[www.anchorededucation.org](http://www.anchorededucation.org)

Provides a comprehensive package of educational consultancy services within Africa and the Middle East. Services include Africa/Middle East regional conferences, educational testing and evaluation, career/university preparation, and services for students with special needs. More information is available on their website.

### **Graebel International**

[www.graebel.com/insights/](http://www.graebel.com/insights/)

An international relocation company which provides full services for member relocations around the world. The "Insights" page provides articles and helpful information about transitioning your family overseas.

### **Homeschool Legal Defense**

[www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org)

Search by your state of residence to learn state education standards/homeschooling laws. Each state offers contact information to answer your homeschool legal questions and connects you to your state education website for more details.

### **Military Child Education Coalition**

[www.MilitaryChild.org](http://www.MilitaryChild.org)

The site provides many articles and resources on a variety of education topics for download.

## Children with Special Educational Needs

- **What is special education?** A form of learning provided to students with exceptional needs, such as learning disabilities, mental or emotional challenges, or physical problems.
- **What is a 504 plan?** A plan to provide services and changes to the learning environment in a school classroom to meet the needs of the child as adequately as other students. This plan is created by the parent(s), special education teacher, and school principal and is implemented by the teacher in the classroom.
- **What is an IEP (Individualized Education Plan)?** A plan for a child's special education experience at school. Provides individualized special education and related services to meet the unique needs of the child. This plan is created by the parent(s), general education teacher, special education teacher, school psychologist or other specialist, and a school district representative. The plan is implemented with support from special education services and regular classroom teachers.

AGWM has missionary families living all over the world whose children have special educational needs. You and your special needs child can succeed on the field. Be sure to communicate your child's special educational needs to your Regional Office. With support from your Regional Office, the ISMK Education Team has resources and education specialists to help your family. We can recommend resources for diagnostic testing if your child is having difficulties and additional resources to help with continuing evaluation. Please feel free to call the ISMK Education Team if you have questions about a child with special needs.

Some of the organizations listed in this resource provide testing, training, and resources to help families living overseas with children who have special needs.

### Schools/Resources to provide support for students with special needs:

- **Bridgeway Academy** [www.homeschoolacademy.com](http://www.homeschoolacademy.com)
- **IXL Worldwide** [www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com)
- **Laurel Springs School** [www.laurelsprings.com](http://www.laurelsprings.com)
- **Learn Differently** [www.learn differently.com/](http://www.learn differently.com/)
- **National Center for Learning Disabilities** [www.nclld.org](http://www.nclld.org)
- **Support for Families of children with disabilities** [www.supportforfamilies.org](http://www.supportforfamilies.org)
- **U.S. Department of Education/ Disabilities** [www.ed.gov/category/subject/disabilities](http://www.ed.gov/category/subject/disabilities)
- **Wilo Star 3D** [wilostar3d.com](http://wilostar3d.com)

## Questions to Ask if Considering a National School

- What is my purpose in choosing a national school? (National schools provide a broader, strong educational base.)
- Is the school committed to individualized education and a child-centered philosophy?
- What is the education philosophy of that country (i.e. politics, holidays, discipline)?
- How will I parent my child through the national school process and make sure he or she learns appropriately?
- How are the discipline procedures different in the national school than what my child is acquainted with already?
- How will I make adjustments prior to enrollment so my child understands these differences?
- Is the school system a shame-based system of educational motivation or is it encouragement-based motivation?
- Am I willing to stay involved with my child attending national schools to assure a positive school experience for him or her?
- How long do I plan to use the national school?
- Do I plan for my child to complete college in the national school system?
- If my children complete their education in a national school only, will it limit them to colleges and higher education *only* in that country?
- How will I prepare my child to transition to U.S. schools on itineration?
- How do the national school grade levels and U.S. school system grade levels differ?
- What type of curriculum is taught and how is it used? How does this compare to U.S. curriculum?

## Article: Benefits of Attending a National School

You may be asking yourself, “What are the benefits to my child in attending a national school?” You know your child better than anyone else. As you consider the option of enrolling your child in a national school, think about his/her needs, personality, and future goals. Do some research online about the national school system in your country.

Here are a couple segments from an article listing 10 benefits for attending a national school abroad.

Excerpts from:

**10 Reasons Why You Should Study Abroad in High School**, By Elen Turner

[www.gooverseas.com/blog/10-reasons-study-abroad-while-youre-still-in-high-school](http://www.gooverseas.com/blog/10-reasons-study-abroad-while-youre-still-in-high-school)

### **#3. You'll Become More than just a Tourist**

Going to classes, learning a new language or dialect of English, and fitting in with everyday life in a foreign place is far different from being a tourist. And it's just as exciting, if not more so, because you learn about a place much more deeply than if you're just touring the must-see sights.

### **#4. You'll Narrow Down Your College Major**

There are so many exciting things you could major in at college, and it can be hard to narrow down your options. One way of doing so is to study abroad and see what you enjoy.

Perhaps you excel at Spanish or are really fascinated by different styles of architecture; maybe you love how math and science break through language barriers; or learn about new environmental conservation practices abroad. Your future major—and career path—may reveal itself in unexpected ways while studying abroad during high school.

### **#5. You Can Learn a New Language**

Knowing a second language is a great skill and can be useful in so many ways that you can't even imagine right now. It's best to learn languages while you're still young and your mind is flexible, and immersion through studying abroad is a great way to improve language skills—or to pick up new ones.

### **#9. You'll Experience a Different Culture & New Ways of Life**

You've no doubt heard that travel broadens your mind. But studying abroad while you're still young, in high school, exposes you to much more than just surface differences. You'll see how young people in other countries live and study, you'll learn about their interests and priorities, and you'll realize that, while life throughout the world certainly is different, there are also many similarities that unite people.

### **#10. You'll Add Impressive Experience to Your Resume**

Maybe you haven't given your resume much thought yet, but you'll increasingly be asked about it as you grow up and go to college, and then move into the workforce. Rather than be impressed by which school you went to or your individual subject grades, many colleges and would-be employers are impressed by experiences that set you apart and show that you have initiative.

It doesn't matter whether you study abroad in Japan or Ireland, being able to demonstrate that you are flexible, open-minded, adventurous, and creative is a major plus. Studying abroad in high school shows that you have these desirable qualities.

## National School Comparison Charts

The charts below are designed to help you compare the grade level system in the U.S. with several other countries' education systems. This is not a comprehensive list, but most countries pattern their grade levels after one of these systems. If you have specific questions about the country to which you are assigned, please contact the ISMK Education Team.

Age	USA	England/Wales	Scotland	France	Korea
4	Pre-K	Reception		Maternelle 3-6yrs old	
5	Kinder	Year1	Primary1		Optional Kinder
6	1st	Year2 (KS1 Test)	Primary2	Cours Preparatoires (CP)	Institute of Music/Art
7	2nd	Year3	Primary3	Cours Elementaire1	Must be able to read
8	3rd	Year4	Primary4	CE2	Primary1
9	4th	Year5	Primary5	Cours Moyen1	Primary2
10	5th	Year6 (KS2 Test)	Primary6	CM2	Primary3
11	6th	Year7 (KS2 Test)	Primary7	6eme	Primary4
12	7th	Year8	Secondary1	5eme	Primary5
13	8th	Year9 (KS3 Test)	Secondary2	4eme	Primary6
14	9th	Year10 (O Level Exam)	Secondary3	3eme	Middle School1
15	10th	Year11 (O Level Exam)	Secondary4	2onde	Middle School2
16	11th	Year12	Secondary5	1ere	Middle School3
17	12th	Year13 (A Level Exam)	Secondary6	Terminale (BAC exams)	High School1
18	College	University	University	University	High School2
19					High School3
20					University

Age	USA	Mexico	Spain	Russia
4	Pre-K	Primary/ Preescolar	Educacion Infantil (Ages 3-5)	Kinder or Nursery
5	Kinder	Primary1/ Basica	Primaria1	Primary1
6	1st	Primary2/ Basica	Primaria2	Primary2
7	2nd	Primary3/ Basica	Primaria3	Primary3
8	3rd	Primary4/ Basica	Primaria4	Primary4
9	4th	Primary5/ Basica	Primaria5	Middle School5
10	5th	Primary6/ Basica	Primaria6	Middle School6
11	6th	Secundaria1/Middle	Secundaria Obligatoria	Middle School7
12	7th	Secundaria2/Middle		Middle School8
13	8th	Secundaria3/Middle		Middle School9
14	9th	Superior1/Secondary	Secundaria Obligatoria 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cycle	High School10
15	10th	Superior2/Secondary		High School11
16	11th	Superior3/Secondary	Bachillerato 1 (College Prep)	University
17	12th	Senior Tech/ Bachelor	Bachillerato 2 (College Prep)	
18	College	Senior Tech/ Bachelor	University	

## National School Resources

Some of the resources below will help you find a national school in your country of assignment. Others provide general information and resources for attending national school. Most of the resources available for national schools are found in Europe or parts of Asia. There are few resources for national schools in other parts of the world as the schooling systems are not comparable or compatible with a U.S. based educational system.

### **Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)**

[www.acsi.org](http://www.acsi.org)

ACSI is the world's largest association of Protestant schools, representing more than 5,300 schools in 100 countries. ACSI lists some national schools in its database. Click "Find a School" to begin. The search engine can pull up available schools by location. The national schools usually have names in a language other than English.

### **Comparative & International Education Society**

[www.cies.us/](http://www.cies.us/)

CIES is a scholarly association dedicated to increasing the understanding of educational issues, trends and policies through comparative, cross-cultural and international perspectives. Its nearly 2,500 individual members--researchers, analysts, practitioners and students--use different conceptual frameworks to explore topics related to education. These include a focus on schools, students, teachers and administrators, and on issues spanning early childhood and basic education to secondary and higher education, as well as non-formal education and life-long learning.

### **Eurydice Network**

[https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/2007-2013\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/2007-2013_en)

Eurydice Network provides information on and analyses of European educational systems and policies. It consists of 35 national units based in all 31 countries participating in the European Union's Lifelong Learning program and is coordinated and managed by the EU Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency in Brussels.

### **UNESCO**

<https://en.unesco.org/>

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture. UNESCO's programs contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in Agenda 2030, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015. You can search general education information about your country of assignment.

## Questions to Ask if Considering an International School

- What is my purpose in choosing an international school?
- Is the school committed to individualized education and a child-centered philosophy?
- What is the school's global education philosophy (i.e., politics, holidays, discipline, combining of cultures in the classroom, etc.)?
- How will I parent my child through the international school process and make sure they learn appropriately?
- How are the discipline procedures different in the international school than what my child is acquainted with already?
- How will I make adjustments prior to enrollment so my child understands these differences?
- Is the school system a shame-based system of educational motivation or is it encouragement-based motivation?
- Am I willing to stay involved with my child attending international schools to assure a positive school experience for my child?
- How long do I plan to use the international school?
- Do I plan for my child to complete college in the international school system?
- How will I prepare my child to transition to U.S. schools on itineration?
- What are the differences between the international school grade levels and U.S. school system levels?
- What type of curriculum is taught and how is it used? How does this compare to U.S. curriculum?

## Article: Benefits of attending an International School

[www.acs-schools.com/Benefits-of-International-Schooling](http://www.acs-schools.com/Benefits-of-International-Schooling)

### What effect does attending an international school have on students?

The key findings of a recent survey of ACS alumni show that students who receive an international education leave school very well-prepared for further study and work. In particular, the survey reveals that international school students develop a better range of “soft” skills such as time management, critical analysis and independent thinking than their peers who have followed national qualification programs.

Almost all respondents felt that their international education had prepared them well for their career, and the top quality highlighted was an appreciation of different cultures - named by 76 per cent of respondents. 57 per cent said their education helped them develop an inquiring mind, 58 per cent named communication skills and 60 per cent named self-management skills.

*“Studying in an international setting, with students from around the world, provided me with the environment to develop communication skills with people from a wide variety of backgrounds. The company I work for has offices all around the world and I’m frequently asked to work across borders. Given my experiences in the past, I’m comfortable when dealing with multiple cultures.”*

Sam Hariton, ACS Cobham, Class of 2001

*“I would not trade my international education for anything. In fact, I believe it has shaped who I am today. My future hope is that my husband and I will have the opportunity to live internationally, so that our children will also be able to make lifelong friends with people of all nationalities.”*

Alexa Glaser, ACS Hillingdon, Class of 1991

## International School Resources

### **The Council of International Schools**

[portal.cois.org/wcm/cis/](http://portal.cois.org/wcm/cis/)

A not-for-profit organization of a worldwide international education community comprising over 650-member schools and 450 colleges/universities. with experience in K–12 education in more than 100 countries. The central purpose of CIS is to enable member organizations to achieve and deliver the highest standards in international education and continually improve the outcome of student learning. The home page has a search engine for associated schools.

### **Directory of International/English Schools Worldwide**

[www.english-schools.org/](http://www.english-schools.org/)

Online directory of International schools, English schools, and American schools in Europe and throughout the world that offer an education in English, or a language foreign to the native country. Content is supplied from the schools themselves either directly or from their websites. The list of schools is a side menu on each page.

### **European Council of International Schools (ECIS)**

[www.ecis.org](http://www.ecis.org)

Founded in 1965, the ECIS is a global service membership organization that provides professional development opportunities to member schools. ECIS is committed to the promotion of an international outlook among its members. For a list of ECIS schools, on their website click Search and Find Member School. The site provides details about each member and links to school websites.

### **International School Services (ISS)**

[www.iss.edu](http://www.iss.edu)

Since 1955 ISS has planned, designed, and managed schools around the world. In addition, they provide support activities to existing independent overseas schools. They currently work with over 300 schools. For details click “Explore Schools.”

### **Network of International Christian Schools**

[www.nics.org](http://www.nics.org)

Click on “Explore NICS Schools” for a list of their 19 schools across 16 different countries on 4 continents.

### **Quality Schools International (QSI)**

[www.qsi.org](http://www.qsi.org)

A nonprofit group of international schools in Europe, Asia, and Eurasia. They have 35 schools in 25 countries and serve diplomatic, development, and business families. QSI schools are established to provide a quality education in the English language for students in the cities they serve.

### **U.S. Department of State**

[www.state.gov/m/a/os/c1684.htm](http://www.state.gov/m/a/os/c1684.htm)

The U.S. Department of State provides an international school listing for countries all over the world. This is an excellent resource for families. After selecting a region of the world, this website lists all the countries in which they have a recognized international school. Click on the country and find a list of schools with specific information for each.

## International Schools by Region

### Africa

#### **(Kenya) Rift Valley Academy (K–12)**

[www.rva.org](http://www.rva.org)

RVA is a Christian boarding school located in central Kenya. The academy, a branch of Africa Inland Mission International, exists to provide a quality education in a nurturing environment for the children of missionaries serving in Africa. The school is divided into two parts, the elementary portion, called Titchie Swot, and the high school. Utilizing an American curriculum, and accredited by the Middle States Association, RVA is designed to prepare the children of missionaries for higher education.

#### **(Kenya) Rosslyn Academy (K–12)**

[www.rosslynacademy.com](http://www.rosslynacademy.com)

Rosslyn Academy provides a North American and Christian-oriented educational program for children of missionaries. In 1976 and 1988 respectively, the Baptist Mission of Kenya and the Assemblies of God became co-owners and sponsoring agencies. Rosslyn was first accredited in 1992 by Middle States Association (MSA) and the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI).

#### **(Senegal) Dakar Academy (PreK–12)**

[www.dakar-academy.org](http://www.dakar-academy.org)

Fully accredited college preparatory, co-educational day and boarding school serving grades Pre-K through 12. Provides quality education from a Christian perspective utilizing a U.S.-based curriculum. On-campus living program accepts students in grade 6 and up. Instruction is in English with daily French classes for all levels.

### Asia Pacific

#### **(Guam) Trinity Christian School (PreK–12)**

[www.trinitychristianschoolguam.com](http://www.trinitychristianschoolguam.com)

Founded in 1980 by International Christian Assembly of God, Trinity Christian School is committed to providing an educational program that develops excellence in students academically, socially, physically, and spiritually. With approximately 380 students, TCS offers a high-quality education to children in a Christian environment.

#### **(Malaysia) Dalat International School (PreK–12)**

[www.dalat.org/web/](http://www.dalat.org/web/)

Provides an education for life founded on a biblical worldview to children from age three to high school graduation. The school's academic and boarding programs quality care for children are well known around the world. Dalat is a non-for-profit school community located on the shores of Penang, Malaysia.

#### **(Philippines) Faith Academy (PreK–12)**

[faith.edu.ph/](http://faith.edu.ph/)

Founded in 1957, FA is an international Christian school offering Pre K-12 education for the children of Christian workers as well as other national and international students.

### Eurasia

#### **(Turkey) Oasis International School (1–12)**

[www.oisankara.org](http://www.oisankara.org)

OIS provides a small-school environment with school spirit and family involvement. OIS utilizes an American-based curriculum that has been refined to reflect the Turkish environment in which they are located. Core subjects include English/language arts, math, science, and social studies. Other subjects include art, music, computers, library, Turkish language, religious instruction, and physical education.

## Europe

**(Germany) Black Forest Academy (1–2 bilingual, 3–12 English)** [www.bfacademy.com](http://www.bfacademy.com)

BFA was founded in 1956. It is an international Christian school providing an English language education for grades 3 through 12 (grade 1 and 2 are bilingual). It serves the children of international Christian workers and international business families who want a North American curriculum that incorporates a Christian worldview. BFA has an enrollment of approximately 325 students, which include roughly 150 students in the residential boarding program for grades 7 to 12.

## Latin America Caribbean

**(Brazil) Pan American Christian Academy (PreK–12)**

[www.paca.com.br](http://www.paca.com.br)

PACA is a Christian, American international school located in the city of São Paulo, working with 350 students from different parts of the world with an American-style pre-school through high school education (offering a dual diploma for American and Brazilian universities).

**(Costa Rica) Sojourn Academy (PreK–12)**

[www.sojournacademycostarica.com](http://www.sojournacademycostarica.com)

Sojourn Academy and Rayitos del Sol exist to support world-wide missions. Sojourn provides quality education to MKs while their parents attend the Spanish Language Institute (ILE ) in preparation to begin work on the mission field.

**(Ecuador) Alliance Academy International (K–12)**

[www.alliance.k12.ec](http://www.alliance.k12.ec)

A private, co-educational school located in Quito, Ecuador. Founded in 1929 to provide an extensive U.S. curriculum for the children of evangelical missionaries. There are 440 students in grades K–12. Alliance Academy International holds full accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Association of Christian Schools International.

**(Haiti) Quisqueya Christian School (PreK–12)**

[www.quisqueyahaiti.com/](http://www.quisqueyahaiti.com/)

QCS is open to English speaking students interested in securing a Christian education, from PreK – 12<sup>th</sup> grade providing an excellent Biblically-based education which encompasses spiritual, social, and academic development.

## Northern Asia

**International Academy of Beijing (K–12)**

[www.iabchina.net](http://www.iabchina.net)

IAB is a Christian school located in the heart of Beijing, serving the expatriate community. Many students' parents are involved in faith-based nonprofit work in China, but others are diplomats, businesspeople, and educators. IAB is licensed by the Chinese government to enroll only students whose parents hold foreign passports. Current enrollment, as of fall 2008, is approximately 260 in grades K-11. In March 2007 IAB was granted accreditation by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and in June 2008 was accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

**Xi'an International School (K–12)**

[www3.xianinternationalschool.com](http://www3.xianinternationalschool.com)

XIS has been licensed and operating as an international school in Xi'an since 1996. We offer a complete American curriculum to grades K5 to 12th. Each class/grade level is taught by a qualified university trained native English speaker from North America, many have masters' degrees.

## Questions to Ask if Considering an MK School

- What is my purpose in choosing an MK school?
- Is the school committed to individualized education and a child-centered philosophy?
- How will I parent my child through the MK school process and make sure they learn appropriately?
- Am I willing to stay involved with my child attending an MK school to assure a positive school experience for my child?
- How long do I plan to use an MK school?
- How will I prepare my child to transition to U.S. schools on itineration?
- Is my child's MK school education adequate for them to attend a U.S. college/university?
- Is this MK school accredited? If so, what organization is it accredited with?
- What type of curriculum is taught and how is it used? How does this compare to U.S. curriculum?

## **MK School Resources**

### **The Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)**

[www.acsi.org](http://www.acsi.org)

ACSI represents more than 5300 protestant schools worldwide in 100 countries. ACSI has 3800 U.S. member schools, with a total student population of approximately 690,000. Its mission is to enable Christian schools and educators to effectively prepare students for life. ACSI strives to enable and equip Christian educators and schools worldwide to effectively educate children and young people with the mind of Christ. The many programs and services offered are intended to enrich the teaching of truth—God’s Word revealed through Scripture as well as creation. The people of ACSI, in its Colorado Springs headquarters and 17 regional offices around the world, are eager to assist educators and schools in guiding their students to reach their full potential in Christ.

### **Network of International Christian Schools (NICS)**

[www.nics.org](http://www.nics.org)

The mission of NICS is to establish a worldwide network of international Christian schools staffed by qualified Christian educators, instilling in each student a biblical worldview in an environment of academic excellence and respect for people of all cultures and religions. NICS has 20 schools in 16 countries and a growing number of students and locations. The website provides a search engine of NICS schools.

### **International School Services (ISS)**

[www.iss.edu](http://www.iss.edu)

Since 1955 ISS has planned, designed, and managed schools around the world. In addition, they provide support activities to existing independent overseas schools, ISS is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to excellence for children attending overseas schools worldwide. ISS currently provides services to over 300 international schools. Independent international schools rely on ISS for teacher and administrator recruitment, supply procurement, financial management, publications, and consulting. ISS school lists have several larger MK schools in its directory of international schools.

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- What is the school's global education philosophy? (i.e. politics, holidays, discipline, combining of cultures in the classroom, teacher interaction, etc.)
- How will I parent my child through the boarding school process and make sure they learn appropriately?
- How are the discipline procedures different in the boarding school than what my child is acquainted with already?
- How will I make adjustments prior to enrollment so my child understands these differences?
- Am I willing to stay involved with my child attending boarding school to assure a positive school experience for my child?
- How long do I plan to use the boarding school?
- How will I prepare my child to transition to U.S. schools on itineration?
- What are the differences between boarding school education grade levels and U.S. school system grade levels?
- What type of curriculum is taught and how is it used? How does this compare to U.S. curriculum?
- How is the school calendar developed? (breaks, holidays, etc.) What is a sample of a daily schedule? (classroom time, home time, meal time, study time, etc.)
- Will my child thrive in a setting away from home and family?
- What are the social/emotional benefits and concerns for my child attending a boarding school?

# Article: The Benefits of Attending a Boarding School

By Allison Miller posted on former *Boarding School Wizard* website

Whether you're exploring boarding schools out of an interest in a different type of educational environment, or because it's a family tradition to attend school away from home, there are many benefits to boarding school life. Some of the biggest boarding school benefits include:

## **Academic Challenge**

Boarding schools provide much more than an academically rigorous curriculum, although high academic standards and challenging courses are frequently the hallmark of a boarding school education. To be admitted, students need to demonstrate they can meet the high standards the schools set. But once in, they are often privy to an impressive selection of course offerings.

## **Round-the-Clock Learning**

Unlike in traditional public or private schools where teaching ends at 3:00, the learning in boarding schools continues long after the afternoon bell rings. The school day does not start and stop as it does in other scholastic settings. Whether during afternoon study sessions, in discussions over dinner, or as part of practice for the school play, students are constantly exposed to new information about the people and world around them.

## **Small Class Size**

The personal attention that is possible in a class with fewer students is another major benefit of a boarding school education. Teachers get to know their students extremely well, making it possible to provide one-on-one support and encouragement when needed. Likewise, students form close personal bonds, too.

## **Rich Extracurricular Activities**

While parents may worry about the supervision their child receives outside of the classroom, the truth is that boarding schools offer a wide range of activities to engage students during free time. From sports to art, music, special interest clubs and volunteer opportunities, students are kept busy from morning to night.

## **Family Atmosphere**

When students and teachers live and study together 24/7, close personal relationships are formed unlike any other at a traditional day school. Your roommates and classmates typically become life-long friends.

## **Supported Independence**

Although students who attend boarding school are generally more independent, almost out of necessity, they are rarely unsupervised. Learning to make smart decisions, in a safe environment, is another major benefit of the boarding school experience.

## **Relationships with Colleges**

Some, but not all, boarding schools have well-established relationships with college admissions offices, which may provide an advantage to boarding school students who choose to apply. This is more likely to be the case at college preparatory boarding schools, however. Boarding schools provide a wealth of opportunities for academic learning and personal growth. Students who enter excited about the chance to be part of the close-knit community are those most likely to succeed.

## Boarding School Resources

### **Boarding Schools Information**

[www.boardingschoolsinfo.com](http://www.boardingschoolsinfo.com)

The Boarding Schools Directory is a large index of boarding schools on the Web. Parents can search for boarding schools by categories such as by state, region, or type. Comprehensive guide to schools in the U.S., and a growing directory for Canada, the U.K., and other parts of the world.

### **Boarding School Finder**

[www.boarding-school-finder.com](http://www.boarding-school-finder.com)

Boarding School Finder has over 3,000 boarding schools in 50 countries. Find boarding schools worldwide on the Internet Course Finders, your first information source online for boarding schools, hotel schools, language schools, and other international study programs.

### **The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS)**

[www.boardingschools.com/for-schools/research-resources.aspx](http://www.boardingschools.com/for-schools/research-resources.aspx)

TABS provides original and collaborative research along with timely news and resources related to TABS and boarding school education, practice, and policy.

## Boarding Schools

### **Alliance Academy International (K–12)**

[www.alliance.k12.ec](http://www.alliance.k12.ec)

A private, co-educational school located in **Quito, Ecuador**. Founded in 1929 to provide an extensive U.S. curriculum for the children of evangelical missionaries. There are 440 students in grades K–12. Alliance Academy International holds full accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Association of Christian Schools International. The Alliance Academy International offers a residential program on the school's campus for secondary school students.

### **Black Forest Academy (1–2 bilingual, 3–12 English)**

[www.bfacademy.com](http://www.bfacademy.com)

Located in **Germany**, Black Forest Academy (BFA) was founded in 1956 by TeachBeyond, formerly Janz Team Ministries. It is an international Christian school providing an English language education for grades 3 through 12 (grade 1 and 2 are bilingual). It serves the children of international Christian workers and international business families who want a North American curriculum that incorporates a Christian worldview. BFA has an enrollment of approximately 325 students, which includes roughly 150 students in the residential boarding program for grades 7 to 12.

### **Dakar Academy (PreK–12)**

[www.dakar-academy.org](http://www.dakar-academy.org)

Located in **Dakar, Senegal**, Dakar Academy is a college preparatory, co-educational day and boarding school serving grades Pre-K through 12. Provide quality education from a Christian perspective utilizing a U.S.-based curriculum. The only fully accredited boarding school program in Africa, and on-campus living program accepts students in grade 6 and up. Instruction is in English with daily French classes for all levels, including elementary. Dakar Academy has approximately 250 students in its academic program, and over 40 students in boarding.

### **Faith Academy (K–12)**

[faith.edu.ph/about/](http://faith.edu.ph/about/)

Faith Academy is an international Christian K-12 school primarily serving the children of missionaries working in the **Philippines** and throughout Asia, and committed to equipping our students to be Christ-like, life-long learners. The school has two campuses, one located just east of Metro Manila and the second campus is situated in the southern Philippine city of Davao. FA is accredited through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Faith Academy boarding supports missionary families serving throughout Asia by providing quality care and nurturing in the school's boarding homes. Faith Academy sees these homes as one possible alternative in meeting the educational needs of missionary families.

### **Rift Valley Academy (K–12)**

[www.rva.org](http://www.rva.org)

RVA is a Christian boarding school located in **central Kenya**. The academy, a branch of Africa Inland Mission International, exists to provide a quality education in a nurturing environment for the children of missionaries serving in Africa. The current student body of about 450 includes more than 20 different nationalities. The school is divided into two parts, the elementary portion, called Titchie Swot, and the high school. Each section has its own principal, who answers to the superintendent, who answers to the school board. Utilizing an American curriculum, and accredited by the Middle States Association, RVA is designed to prepare the children of missionaries for higher education in their home countries.

## Questions to Ask if Considering Attending a Home/Internet School

- What curriculum will you use for homeschooling? (Appropriate for each grade level.)
- Is the curriculum you choose accredited? How will the accreditation level affect your child's long-term education goals?
- What kinds of records will you need to maintain?
- What ideas do you have on structuring or schedules for doing homeschooling?
- How do you plan on networking for social and emotional development?
- How will you help your child adapt cross-culturally?
- Will your child thrive/adapt to a daily environment where social interaction with peers is limited?
- List questions or ideas you have for more help on homeschooling.
- How do you plan to stay connected to the laws/state standards of the U.S. for your transitions back to the States?
- What type of assessment or testing do you plan to do for your child in homeschool?

# Article: Homeschooling Guide

By Ann Zeise and Carol Moxley

[a2zhomeschooling.com/beginning\\_home\\_school/homeschooling\\_guide/](http://a2zhomeschooling.com/beginning_home_school/homeschooling_guide/)

*Note: This article is from a secular perspective and focuses on homeschooling in the U.S., but it offers good information.*

## What is homeschooling?

### Definition

Homeschooling is a viable education alternative to institutional schooling. In compliance with state laws regarding this type of education, children learn under the general supervision of their parents. Parents and children, conferring with each other, assume control of the content of their learning. It is a complete substitute for institutional schooling.

There are other forms of alternative education that, though they may be called “homeschooling,” fall directly under the supervision of school personnel. Examples are independent study programs (ISPs) or some kinds of “visiting teacher” programs for the infirm. In contrast, while these plans may be called “homeschooling” or “home education” and involve the student learning at home, neither the students nor the parents have much control over the content. “Home Study” is often confused with homeschooling. Such programs are offered by school districts so that children confined to home or hospital because of illness or injury may keep up with their classmates in school.

### Who homeschools?

People from all walks of life homeschool. Homeschoolers live in large cities, small towns, on farms and ranches, in mountains and deserts; homeschoolers live in families where mom stays home and dad works or vice versa; homeschoolers are blended families, two-parent families, single parent families, families that work from their homes or where both parents work and a grandparent takes an active role in the education process; families that are religious and those that aren't; families who have been in their country for generations and those that have recently immigrated; people who enjoy good health and those who live with disabilities. We are homeschoolers. We are your neighbors.

### Why do families homeschool?

Ask ten homeschooling families why they homeschool and you might get a variety of reasons. Usually it is the positive ways homeschooling benefits their families that keep them going. Here are just a few of those benefits:

- Continuing the parent-child relationship that has developed since birth. There is no reason to end this just because the child has reached compulsory school age.
- Better supervision over the content of their children's education—school can be questionable
- Better ability to meet the special needs or learning style of their children
- Concerns about the safety of local schools or the long bus rides to the schools
- The wonderful flexibility! Homeschooling allows for more frequent travel and for long periods of time.

## ***Continue Article: Homeschooling Guide***

### **How many people homeschool?**

Because not all homeschoolers are required to register, it is nearly impossible to get an accurate count. About 350,000 children were being homeschooled. That estimate is now closer to 2,000,000. That's roughly 2 percent of the school-aged population of our country! A dramatic increase in applications from homeschoolers are being reported by colleges and universities as well. There is no question; homeschooling is growing.

### **Legal Options**

#### **Is homeschooling legal?**

Homeschooling is legal in all 50 U.S. states. The laws vary from state to state. It is also legal or becoming more acceptable in all provinces in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Puerto Rico, Japan, South Africa, and other countries. In some countries, it is practiced illegally as homeschoolers work to change the laws.

#### **What is the law where I live?**

In some places, there are requirements that you inform the government of your intent to homeschool in order to avoid truancy questions. In some areas, you may declare your home a private school and thereby be exempt from government interference. In other areas, you must be supervised by a cover school.

You only need to concern yourself with the law if your child falls within the age range for compulsory education in your state. You may certainly live the homeschooling lifestyle if your child is younger or older; you can just ignore any registration or reporting requirements.

#### **Do I have to have a degree or special training?**

Not usually, but credentialed teachers have it easy in some places: they may tutor their own children without any supervision in areas that require such oversight of non-credentialed homeschool parents. Most states don't even require a parent to have a high school diploma. One state requires a "How to Homeschool" course. Requirements vary from state to state.

#### **What's the best source of legal information?**

The people in your area. Local homeschooling groups have experienced homeschoolers who will prove to be the best sources of information on how to meet the legal requirements in your school district. Be sure you have an experienced, reliable source for information. And remember: these people are not lawyers! It is up to you to read the law for yourself. After all, you are the one ultimately responsible for compliance.

## Article: Tips for Successful Homeschooling

There are several issues that you should be aware of when considering homeschool as an educational option for your children.

Experts say that among MKs, correspondence/homeschool works best if it is used as a temporary schooling solution, because the child needs more socialization opportunities than the correspondence or homeschool environment offers. Academically, MKs do fine in the correspondence/homeschool setting.

Studies indicate that children who have been in correspondence/homeschool for long periods of time have greater socialization problems than those in day schools or boarding schools. Social adjustments tend to be the most difficult adjustments MKs face already, especially when they return to the U.S. for college and career.

To counteract the socialization problems, parents should provide daily and weekly social settings for their children. They can do such things as:

- Play host to the neighborhood children so that their children can have neighborhood children in and around the home.
- Take their children's peers with them on outings and field trips.
- Take their children to other children's homes to visit and play.
- Get their children involved in a church where they can have social interaction with their peers.
- Join clubs where their children will have social opportunities.
- Get their children involved in local sports, extracurricular activities, and summer camps through schools, churches, or clubs.

Learning disabilities are much more difficult to detect in children who are in correspondence/homeschool. It is important to discover learning disabilities and get help while the child is younger, preferably in kindergarten and first grade. Parents should have their children periodically tested in an overseas MK school, an American international school, or if they are in the U.S., at a U.S. public school, university, or private learning institution. If a parent suspects development issues related to a child's speech/ language, the child should be evaluated by the child's pediatrician.

## Testing Resources for Homeschool Students

While living overseas you are not held to state laws. However, when you return to the U.S. you will need to show your child's portfolio to prospective schools so they will be able to place your child.

While living in the U.S. homeschool laws in most states require assessment of basic skills. You will need to check state laws in the state which you are registered. We recommend yearly testing for your children and that you keep test results in your child's portfolio (see Building Your Child's Education Portfolio pg. 15).

### Homeschooling State Laws:

<https://hsllda.org/content/laws/>

### General Testing Information:

[a2zhomeschooling.com/thoughts\\_opinions\\_home\\_school/testing\\_services/](http://a2zhomeschooling.com/thoughts_opinions_home_school/testing_services/)

### Resources for Aptitude Testing:

[www.kidtest.com](http://www.kidtest.com)

[sat.collegeboard.com/home](http://sat.collegeboard.com/home)

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

### Sample of State Standardized Tests:

- Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) [www.setontesting.com/iowa-tests/](http://www.setontesting.com/iowa-tests/)
- California Achievement Test (CAT) [www.setontesting.com/cat/](http://www.setontesting.com/cat/)
- Stanford Achievement Test (SAT)  
[www.pearsonassessments.com/learningassessments/products/100000415/stanford-achievement-test-series-tenth-edition.html](http://www.pearsonassessments.com/learningassessments/products/100000415/stanford-achievement-test-series-tenth-edition.html)
  - Stanford 10 online by Seton: Stanford is usually administered by a certified educator, but as this is offered online it does not require a separate certified administrator for the test  
[www.setontesting.com/stanford-10-online/](http://www.setontesting.com/stanford-10-online/)
- Metropolitan Achievement Test (MAT) [www.tests.com/MAT-8-Testing](http://www.tests.com/MAT-8-Testing)
- Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills (CTBS) [www.brewertesting.com/TerraNova.html](http://www.brewertesting.com/TerraNova.html)
- Comprehensive Testing Program (CTPIII) [www.erblearn.org/services/ctp-overview](http://www.erblearn.org/services/ctp-overview)
- Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT)  
[www.pearsonclinical.com/education/products/100001954/wide-range-achievement-test-fifth-edition-wrat5.html](http://www.pearsonclinical.com/education/products/100001954/wide-range-achievement-test-fifth-edition-wrat5.html)
- Peabody Individual Test [achievement-test.com/testing-options/peabody](http://achievement-test.com/testing-options/peabody)
- Woodcock Johnson Revised Tests of Achievement [www.hmhco.com/programs/woodcock-johnson-iv?atrkid=V3ADW6700B927\\_31974165292\\_dsa-215546843332\\_88816312492\\_g\\_c\\_1t1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI--y47crU3QIVogvTCh2S5gOqEAAYASAAEgLAj\\_D\\_BwE](http://www.hmhco.com/programs/woodcock-johnson-iv?atrkid=V3ADW6700B927_31974165292_dsa-215546843332_88816312492_g_c_1t1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI--y47crU3QIVogvTCh2S5gOqEAAYASAAEgLAj_D_BwE)
- Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Test (PSSA) [www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Assessment%20and%20Accountability/PSSA/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Assessment%20and%20Accountability/PSSA/Pages/default.aspx)

## Article: Placement Testing

*Parents Teaching Overseas*, June 1993

By Sharon Haag

### What tests should I give my children?

Most important in determining which tests to give your child is knowing the purpose you want to accomplish by the testing. Testing can be helpful toward several goals:

- Evaluating student progress in a particular academic area and keeping assessment records (progress reports, samples of work)
- Determining strengths and weaknesses so that curriculum can be adapted to meet individual needs
- Understanding approximately how a child will fit in academically according to home country standards
- Obtaining a measure of achievement that is understood and respected by home-country educators

Various kinds of assessments can be used to accomplish these purposes. To evaluate academic progress and understand strengths and weaknesses so that you can plan appropriate curriculum, it is most helpful to use informal inventories/evaluations and the kinds of tests that are included with the curriculum materials you are using.

Informal reading inventories are a valuable tool. Listening to a child read aloud helps determine if the selection is an appropriate reading level for him/her.

- Misreading five words per page (three for younger children) indicates the material is too difficult
- Reading with fluency and appropriate expression is a good indicator that the student comprehends the material
- Noticing the kinds of errors made gives direction regarding what kinds of skills need work

The “formal” tests at the end of chapters and units in textbooks can be used before material is studied to develop a more appropriate study plan. Not spending time on what the child already knows allows for much more effective use of the time that is available.

Take care to understand all the learning goals of a unit before skipping sections. For example, many children who can read selections from their reading program with comprehension need to read the selection anyway if a learning goal is to focus on elements of literature or writing with which they are not familiar.

At the same time, it may be possible to skip the word attack and comprehension exercises that go along with the lesson. Sections of practice problems in math may be skipped if the child clearly knows how to do them, but the word problems on those pages may need to be done to increase problem-solving skills.

## *Continue Article: Placement Testing*

### **Achievement Tests**

If you wonder how your children compare to home country peers and you plan to return to your home country and enroll them in school, it is helpful to have them periodically take the type of achievement test typical in your home country. Some countries have a schedule for testing at particular ages, and you should follow that.

For countries that do not have assigned ages for testing, give a standardized achievement test the year before furlough. Doing it at the beginning of the school year gives opportunity to strengthen areas of weakness you discover (ones that perhaps have not been covered in the curriculum you are using, but are typically covered in schools in your home country).

Another reason for giving standardized achievement tests is that it helps your children to learn the typical kinds of test-taking skills they will experience in your home country. Also, national standardized achievement test scores are readily understood by educational personnel in home countries, so acceptance in schools is facilitated.

### **Portfolios**

Formalized testing may not always be necessary. Even in Canada and the U.S. schools are increasingly looking with favor on “portfolios”—samples of student work. Even if formal test scores are desired, it is nevertheless helpful to maintain a portfolio because it provides a teacher or school with so much more information than mere grades and test scores.

An important item to include in a portfolio is a writing sample. To provide useful information, the sample should show the process the student went through, not just the final product. First draft and revisions should be attached to the final copy to show the student’s progression through the writing process. If possible, have a sample from the beginning, middle, and the end of the school year so development of writing skills can be noted.

To show student comprehension of written material and the ability to respond in writing, include in the portfolio an essay

test in any subject area. A research report or description and pictures of a student-planned and executed project gives good indication of ability to plan, research, organize, and present information in a clear and interesting manner.

These kinds of skills are increasingly being recognized as important. They provide information that cannot be ascertained if only objective, multiple-choice types of assessment are given and if “grades” or test scores are the only kinds of records available.

## Home, Correspondence, & Internet School Resources

### **ACSI**

[www.acsi.org](http://www.acsi.org)

Associate of Christian Schools International provides leadership and oversight for country/region schools around the world. These offices support the national Christian school movement in their areas and maintain school membership within each country.

### **A to Z Home's Cool**

[a2zhomeschooling.com/](http://a2zhomeschooling.com/)

Home education hub for information about curriculum, testing, and laws. Provides worldwide and regional support for homeschooling families. Also provides international homeschool legality issues.

### **Anchor**

[www.anchorededucation.org](http://www.anchorededucation.org)

Provides a comprehensive package of educational consultancy services within Africa and the Middle East. Services include Africa/Middle East regional conferences, educational testing and evaluation, career/university preparation, and services for students with special needs. More information is available on their website.

### **Asia Education Resource Consortium (AERC)**

[www.asiaerc.org](http://www.asiaerc.org)

Created to provide educational services to Christian worker families in Asia, particularly those using homeschooling, national schools, or online schooling to educate their children. Provides qualified and experienced staff in major cities throughout Asia; resource centers with lending libraries; Family Education Conferences; personal consultation; testing services; and secure members-only website and forum.

### **GoNoodle**

[www.gonoodle.com](http://www.gonoodle.com)

A fun site to help you maximize movement, instructional time, and fun! Provides videos to download, interactive games for content review, and informal assessment tools for student progress. Also provides a blog with helpful links and resources.

### **Homeschool Legal Defense (By SIL Ministries)**

[www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org)

Search by your state of residence to learn state education standards and homeschooling laws. Click your state on the map. Can pay to be a member or use free resource links. Each state offers contact information to answer your homeschool legal questions.

### **HomeLife Academy**

[homelifeacademy.com/](http://homelifeacademy.com/)

Private school and ministry offering homeschool families academic counseling, support, official transcripts and diplomas, full-service records department, online reporting and account access

### **Interaction International**

[www.interactionintl.org](http://www.interactionintl.org)

The mission of Interaction International is to be a catalyst and a resource working cooperatively in the development of programs, services and publications to provide and contribute to an ongoing flow of care that meets the needs of Third Culture Kids\* (TCKs) and internationally mobile families.

## **North Atlantic Regional High School**

[www.narhs.com](http://www.narhs.com)

The mission of NARHS is to strengthen home-based education by providing consultation and tools to support course planning, student work assessment, quality academic learning, and goal setting leading to a high school transcript and diploma which have far-reaching transferability and acceptance.

## **SHARE Education Services**

[www.shareeducation.org](http://www.shareeducation.org)

Purpose: to assist parents with children's education while serving cross-culturally in Europe, Russia, Central Asia, and the Middle East. Helps English-speaking families through conferences, workshops, resources, private consultations with educators, and educational assessments for children using achievement or diagnostic testing.

## **102 Top Picks for Homeschooling, By Cathy Duffy**

<https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-extras/parent-helps-and-how-to-books/general-parent-helps/102-top-picks-for-homeschool-curriculum>

Guide to help Christian homeschool families. Print book is going out of print, but Ebooks will still be available. A new version of the book will give the tools to figure out which curricula will work best individual families. The site is creating an advanced search feature which will help homeschoolers narrow down their choices.

## **Home, Correspondence, & Internet Schools**

### **A Beka Academy (PreK—12)**

[www.abeka.com](http://www.abeka.com)

Approach to Christian education keeps learning lively, interesting, and memorable. Over 800 textbooks and teaching aids available for nursery through grade 12. Can order complete child and parent kits, subject kits, or individual items. Many homeschool curriculum/lesson plans are available to help plan day-by-day.

### **Alpha Omega Academy (K—12)**

[www.aoacademy.com/index.php](http://www.aoacademy.com/index.php)

An accredited, full service distance learning program for Christian homeschoolers K through 12th grade. Part of Alpha Omega Publications.

- **Horizons** is the homeschool curriculum branch of Alpha Omega Publishing. With print-based, computer-based, and online formats.

[www.aop.com/curriculum/horizons](http://www.aop.com/curriculum/horizons)

### **American School (9—12)**

[www.americanschoolofcorr.com](http://www.americanschoolofcorr.com)

Since 1897 has helped three million + students around the world earn a high school diploma at home or from an accredited school. Offers high school correspondence and online courses and online middle school courses. Curriculum will soon include middle school correspondence courses, honors courses for students in grades 6-12, and high school AP courses.

### **BJU Press (K—12)**

[www.bjupresshomeschool.com](http://www.bjupresshomeschool.com)

BJU Press is a publisher of textbooks and video lessons for homeschool families. Committed to creating materials that help parents deliver an education that is based on sound educational principles, inspires a joy in learning, and is rooted in a solid biblical worldview.

**Bridgeway Academy**

[www.homeschoolacademy.com](http://www.homeschoolacademy.com)

Started 1989 in response to the need for more freedom in education and the protection that accreditation offers. Offers *secular and Christian* options for homeschoolers, charter schools, state organizations and others who seek home education options for their families.

**Calvert Education (9—12)**

[www.calverteducation.com/curriculum/calvert-academy-online-private-school](http://www.calverteducation.com/curriculum/calvert-academy-online-private-school)

Accredited, online private school for high school students. This complete, diploma-granting program combines the flexibility of at-home learning with a rigorous academic curriculum.

**Calvert Curriculum (PreK-12)**

[www.calverteducation.com/homeschool](http://www.calverteducation.com/homeschool)

Time-Tested curriculum options for PreK – 12 available through Calvert Education. Also provides tools and support and free downloadable resources.

**K12 Online School (K—12)**

[www.k12courses.com/online-homeschool/](http://www.k12courses.com/online-homeschool/)

For more than 16 years, K12 has been a leader in helping families achieve a world-class education for their students right at home. Whether you're looking to supplement your child's traditional brick-and-mortar education or to expand your own homeschooling program, K12 stands with your desire to bring excellence to your child's education.

**Laurel Springs School (K—12)**

[www.laurelsprings.com](http://www.laurelsprings.com)

Accredited, independent study for grades K-12. Focuses on children with special education needs and provides custom classes as well as honors, UC, and NCAA approved courses. Course credits are transferable, and students may enroll in programs at any time of year. They provide a yearbook, prom, and graduation ceremony.

**Liberty University Online Academy (K—12)**

[www.liberty.edu/online-academy/](http://www.liberty.edu/online-academy/)

LUOA offers strong academics, taught by certified teachers, from a biblical worldview. Offers K-12 classes and dual enrollment classes, as well as electives such as guitar, public speaking, creative writing, and more. The curriculum allows flexible due dates, so students can take time needed in order to complete assignments.

**My Father's World (PreK—12)**

[www.mfwbooks.com](http://www.mfwbooks.com)

Combining the best of Charlotte Mason, classical education, and unit studies with a Biblical worldview.

**North Dakota Center for Distance Education (6—12)**

[www.ndcde.org/](http://www.ndcde.org/)

Variety of courses available for online, independent study for students in grades 6 – 12. Accreditation and course requirements for graduation differ from state to state.

**NorthStar (6—12)**

[www.northstar-academy.org](http://www.northstar-academy.org)

NorthStar Homeschool and Independent Study (HIS) provide strong, researched, multi-media-rich, academically-challenging, thorough, and detailed lessons and lesson resources which have all been created by veteran teachers.

**RightStart for Home School (math curriculum by levels)**

[rightstartmath.com/](http://rightstartmath.com/)

Hands-on program de-emphasizes *counting*, uses visualization of quantities. Primary learning tool is the *AL Abacus*, a specially designed two-sided abacus that is both kinesthetic and visual.

**School of Tomorrow (K—12)**

[www.aceministries.com/homeschool-options](http://www.aceministries.com/homeschool-options)

Families are offered two ways to homeschool—Lighthouse Christian Academy (LCA) or Independent Homeschool. LCA is the official K-12 distance-learning provider for Accelerated Christian Education Ministries (ACEM) and exclusively uses the A.C.E. curriculum. A.C.E. also offers support for independent homeschool families. Whether switching from a different curriculum or homeschooling for the first time, A.C.E.'s complete K-12 program can help your homeschool succeed.

**Sevenstar Online School (6—12)**

[sevenstar.org/](http://sevenstar.org/)

Sevenstar is a leader in online Christian education and currently serves students worldwide with high-quality learning solutions. Online courses for 6-12 graders are rigorous and exceed all US national standards and recommendations.

**Singapore Math (PreK—12, specific subjects)**

[www.singaporemath.com](http://www.singaporemath.com)

Provides curriculum for the following subjects: mathematics, science, English, Chinese, and art for PreK students. Singapore math books as use the Primary Mathematics Series, first published in 1982. Primary Mathematics was written by members of a project team put together by the Ministry of Education, Singapore.

**Sonlight (PreK—12)**

[www.sonlight.com](http://www.sonlight.com)

Christian company specializing in literature-based homeschool curriculum programs. Provide complete curriculum packages and individual resources/materials so you can build the preschool or K-12 homeschool curriculum that best meets your family's needs. Based in Littleton, CO and serves customers in over 150 countries worldwide.

**TCK International Academy (K—12)**

[www.tckiacademy.com](http://www.tckiacademy.com)

TCKIA opened in 2017 with the goal to prepare Third Culture Kids (TCKs) academically, spiritually, and emotionally for postsecondary academics and careers. TCKIA is not a homeschool program, but an accredited distance-education school with a biblical worldview providing an educational center that simultaneously connects students with other TCKs and certified faculty.

**The Potter's School (4—12)**

[at-tps.org/](http://at-tps.org/)

TPS provides complete academic support from grades 4 through graduation, including college dual credit. Has live on-line core academic courses with high academic standards, a thoroughly integrated biblical worldview, and timely effective feedback.

**University of Nebraska High School (9—12)**

[highschool.nebraska.edu](http://highschool.nebraska.edu)

UNHS is a college-prep high school offering quality education and academic services to students online.

## Questions to Ask in Preparation for College and Beyond

- What does my child want to do after high school?
- If college is the best fit for my child, what type of school should he/she attend? (Christian, AG, state, community, etc.)
- Do I have an opportunity to visit or get college information when we are in the U.S. on itineration or vacation?
- Do I want my child to enroll in dual-credit or Advanced Placement courses or IB program in high school to advance them for college?
- Has my child completed his/her high school graduation requirements to apply for college?
- Has my child taken the PSAT, SAT, ACT or other testing in preparation for college application?
  - Go to: [blog.prepscholar.com/complete-official-act-practice-tests-free-links](http://blog.prepscholar.com/complete-official-act-practice-tests-free-links) for free SAT and ACT practice tests and information links.
  - Official SAT Site: [sat.collegeboard.com](http://sat.collegeboard.com)
  - Official ACT Site: [www.act.org/](http://www.act.org/)
- Have we discussed with our child how we will pay for college?
- Have we explored and applied for loans, scholarships, grants, etc. (FAFSA, AG Scholarships, MK Scholarships, state discounts, etc.)
- Have we discussed vocational or technical school options?
- Have we created a work force plan?
- Have we discussed a gap year plan before starting college? How would a gap year affect college costs, application timing, and career options?
- How will I prepare my child to transition to a U.S. college after living overseas?
- How will I prepare my child for living in the U.S., knowing that this transition can affect their education? (i.e. driver's license, acquiring a job, opening a bank account, etc.)
- Is my child adequately prepared for the style of study required in college? (i.e. 2-days of classes vs. a week-long schedule, essay style assignments, being responsible to attend classes regularly, etc.)

## College Preparation

There are several issues to consider if your child is reaching the end of his/her high school years as you prepare to move overseas. The purpose of this section is to encourage you to think about preparing your child for the college transition and challenges you may encounter.

Once you are on the field the MK Office sends a resource packet at the beginning of each calendar year to Junior/Senior high school students. The packet provides detailed information about college prep, financial aid, choosing a college, and leaving your country well.

This section provides a suggested college-prep timeline for high school students. If your child is close to 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade as you prepare to go overseas, try to do as many of these things in the U.S. before you leave for the field. No matter where you live, you want to be sure your MK has enough credits and electives to apply to the college of his/her choice (see sample credit requirements). The goal is to finish high school well so your child is prepared for their college or work transition.

# Sample of High School Graduation Requirements

## Missouri Graduation Requirements by Units of Credit

Missouri Dept of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Minimum Graduation Requirements			Two Institutions-One Goal: Prepare Students for Success	MO Coordinating Board for Higher Education's Recommended High School Course Work	
Subject	Units of Credit	Additional Requirements	Additional Guidance for Successful Preparation	Subject	Units of Credit
English Language Arts	4 credits			English Language Arts	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits		Students who take a 4th yr of math are often more successful in completing college-level math (MDHE).	Mathematics	4 credits
Social Studies	3 credits	Passing of the U.S. and MO Constitutions Passing of an American Civics exam	Social Studies coursework should emphasize American history, MO government, and MO history as a required state statute.	Social Studies	3 credits
Science	3 credits		Biology, Chemistry, and Physics with at least one lab class is strongly recommended.	Science	3 credits
Fine Arts	1 credit			Fine Arts	1 credit
Physical Education	1 credit	30 minutes of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation instruction and training in proper performance of Heimlich maneuver or other first aid for choking.		Physical Education	1 credit
Practical Arts	1 credit			Practical Arts	1 credit
Health	1/2 credit			Health	1/2 credit
Personal Finance	1/2 credit			Personal Finance	1/2 credit
Electives	7 credits		MDHE strongly recommends two units of credit in a single foreign language.	Electives	6 credits
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>24 credits</b>			<b>Total:</b>	<b>24 credits</b>

# 9<sup>th</sup> Through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade College Planning Checklist

## Freshman Year:

- Investigate graduation plans
- 4-year plan course work
- Investigate colleges/universities – majors, location, size, cost, etc.
- Volunteer or do community work or extra-curricular activities for college resume
- Participate in Athletics/intramural, team sports for college resume
- Memorize social security number
- Check transcript for high school courses needed to graduate

## Sophomore Year:

- Get a part-time job if possible
- Take the PSAT in October for practice
- Review your 4-year plan, increase challenges if necessary (GPA, rank-check, extra-curricular activities, etc.)
- Review finances with parents
- Narrow down potential colleges/universities
- Attend college days/open houses at potential college/university whenever possible
- Look at potential college websites, request catalogues/information
- Arrange for summer visits to college financial aid offices
- Increase participation in extra-curricular activities and community work, especially during summer
- Visit your school counselor to discuss college/career options

## Junior Year:

- Attend college days at potential college/university, visit Financial Aid office
- Review your 4-year plan and coursework, increase challenges if necessary, investigate AP classes, GPA ranking, and dual credit options
- Research scholarship opportunities
- Visit your school counselor to discuss college/career options

### **Summer–October**

- Get a part-time job if possible
- Self-evaluation: consider your personality, interests, values, abilities, spiritual direction
- Discuss college options with parents/teachers, visit colleges if possible
- Take the PSAT in October for scholarship monies
- Begin driver's ed classes or work part-time job to save money for college

### **September–November**

- Begin college search
- Prepare for SAT or ACT
- Check admissions requirements of potential colleges; know which test they accept (most accept either SAT or ACT)
- Study SAT/ACT prep material to determine which testing format you prefer
- Improve weak areas in the PSAT to prepare for the SAT/ACT
- Register for May or June SAT/ACT

### **December**

- Request information/applications from potential colleges
- Narrow down college preference list
- Study admissions standards of preferred colleges

### **March–May**

- Select difficult courses for your high school senior year
- Take SAT I, II (if required by college), ACT in Spring

### **Summer**

- Visit preferred colleges if possible
- Prepare resume of accomplishments, activities, work experience, etc.
- Prepare essay of life-long learning intentions and why these are your goals

### **Senior Year:**

- Continue job
- Research/apply for all applicable scholarships and turn in by required deadlines
- Parents: Save income tax information in December, apply for FAFSA on January 1
- Parents: Should receive SAR report by March, if not, contact FAFSA center
- Order/send 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester transcript to send to prospective college(s)
- Register for any summer classes needed and transfer credits

### **September**

- Attend college fairs online or in person
- Narrow down list of preferred colleges
- Investigate scholarship opportunities
- Perfect and update college essays
- Ask counselor/teachers for recommendation letters, order transcripts
- Register online for the October and November SAT I and II or ACT

### **October**

- Fill out college applications, concentrating on essays. Note deadlines for essays.
- **Turn in all college applications/essays by November 1**
- Request letters of recommendation from teachers and others.
- Send SAT/ACT test scores to at least four or more preferred colleges

### **November**

- Talk about college financing, i.e. work-study, grants, parent plus loans, etc.

### **December**

- Complete applications to meet January 1 deadlines. Keep copies of each college application.

### **January-February**

- Complete and submit college applications to meet February 1 deadlines.
- Submit FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1, but before the March 15 deadline. Keep copies of everything submitted to colleges.
- Continue scholarship searches

### **March-April**

- Most colleges notify students of admissions decisions during these months.
- Make decisions between colleges to which you've been accepted—weigh annual cost of college and scholarships offered for different colleges
- Respond by letter to all schools accepting or declining their offer(s)

### **May-June**

- Graduate high school
- Prepare for the transition to college life away from your parents

# Article: The International Baccalaureate Program

Information from [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)

## History

The International Baccalaureate® (IB) was founded in Geneva, Switzerland in 1968 as a nonprofit educational foundation. A group of talented, forward-thinking teachers at the International School of Geneva, with assistance from several other international schools, created the IB Diploma Program. What started life as a single program for internationally mobile students preparing for university, has today grown into three programs for students aged 3 to 19.

The program in the early days consisted of a common pre-university curriculum and a common set of external examinations for students in schools throughout the world, seeking to provide students with a truly international education. Although the first IB schools were predominantly private international schools, they included a very small number of private national institutions and schools belonging to state education departments. This has changed over the years and today over half of all IB World Schools (authorized to offer one or more of our programs) are state schools.

Although the first IB schools were predominantly private international schools, today over half of all IB World Schools are state schools. Carrying forward the ideals and dreams of the IB founders, the organization exists to provide high quality education for a better world, as expressed in our mission statement. IB programs continue to encourage this international-mindedness in students and educators through the IB learner profile—a set of values that represent our mission and principles.

## About IB

The International Baccalaureate® (IB) offers high quality programs of international education to a worldwide community of schools. Our three programs for students aged 3 to 19 help develop the intellectual, personal, emotional, and social skills to live, learn, and work in a rapidly globalizing world. There are more than 854,000 IB students at 3,033 schools in 139 countries.

## Mission and Strategy

The International Baccalaureate® (IB) is more than its three educational programs. At our heart, we are motivated by a mission to create a better world through education. We value our hard-earned reputation for quality, for high standards and for pedagogical leadership. We achieve our goals by working with partners and by actively involving our stakeholders, particularly teachers. We promote intercultural understanding and respect, not as an alternative to a sense of cultural and national identity, but as an essential part of life in the 21st century. All of this is captured in our mission statement.

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments, and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment. These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

# Article: 5 Benefits of Taking AP Classes in High School

[www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/ap-classes](http://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/ap-classes)

Why take an Advanced Placement class? After all, high school is a pressure cooker. You already have to take the SAT, apply to college, and keep up with your extracurriculars. The last thing you may want to do is take a very demanding course, especially one that's not mandatory. But we recommend you consider it. Here are five ways AP classes can be a smart choice.

## 1. Prep for college

AP classes can be as challenging as introductory college courses. They are fast-paced, cover more material than regular classes, and require independent work like research and analysis. Getting a dose of a college-level curriculum early on could ease your transition from high school senior to first-year college student.

## 2. Rise to the top of the pile

Advanced Placement classes show admissions officers that you're ready for college-level work. Admissions counselors consistently tell us that good grades and academic rigor are the most important factors when schools evaluate applications. Even over standardized test scores!

## 3. Strengthen your transcript

Many high schools give extra weight to AP grades when calculating your GPA. Taking an AP class and getting a B is often a better choice than getting an A in a regular course.

## 4. Study what you love

There are 38 AP subjects from computer science to Japanese language and culture, although your high school may only offer some of these. If you're a science whiz, AP Biology or AP Chemistry may give you the extra challenge you crave. If you're the next Ernest Hemingway, head to AP English. Choosing a subject you're interested in, or have had previous success in, will help you commit to the workload.

## 5. Get a head start on college reqs (and save some tuition dollars)

Taking an AP class is great prep for the acing the corresponding AP test. Held every May, AP tests are scored on a scale from 1–5. If your college offers AP credit, a score of a 4 or higher could allow you to earn college credits without paying college tuition. Some students are able to skip the entire first year of college this way, thus cutting the entire cost of their college education by one quarter.

## AP Classes: The Bottom Line

AP classes can boost your GPA and strengthen your college application. But the number of advanced courses you choose to take should depend on your academic interests and your schedule.

*AP and Advanced Placement Program are trademarks registered and owned by the College Board, which is not affiliated with, and does not endorse, this product.*

# Article: Benefits of Taking a Gap Year

## 10 Reasons You Should Take A Gap Year

By Suzy Strutner Lifestyle Editor, HuffPost Original Posting 1/30/2013,

Updated May 24, 2016 [www.huffingtonpost.com/2016/05/01/gap-year\\_n\\_4325969.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2016/05/01/gap-year_n_4325969.html)

With the recent news that Malia Obama will take a gap year before her freshman year at Harvard, the world will surely watch with anticipation to learn how she will spend the 365 days between high school and college.

While it's not common in the U.S., taking a gap year is considered the norm in some countries all over the world, including the United Kingdom and Australia. Many colleges and universities in the U.S. not only accept applicants who choose to take gap years, but also actively encourage enrolled students to study abroad during their college tenures. According to study abroad organization CIEE, Harvard College has seen a 33 percent increase in the number of their incoming students taking gap years.

That might be due, in part, to the school's acceptance letters. According to U.S. News & World Report, acceptance letters from Harvard even suggest that students might want to take time off before they enroll.

Taking a gap year between high school and college can be tremendously beneficial to one's personal growth, whether one decides on enrolling in a structured gap year program, spend time volunteering abroad or simply traveling the world. Regardless, taking a gap year means that you're living life to the fullest. Here are 10 reasons why.

### 1. You'll perform better in college.

Students might worry that college admissions officials or professors will look down on them for taking a gap year. This isn't true: many schools report that gap year students have higher GPAs and are more involved on campus, so their attitudes toward gap years are far from unfavorable.

### 2. You'll realize what you love before you start studying.

More often than not, college students commit themselves to one area of study, realize it's not for them, and then swap to a completely different major...often two or three times. You'll cut down on coursework, tuition bills and stress if you take time before college to decide how you want to spend your academic experience before you get there.

### 3. You'll get to adventure at your prime.

When else are you going to be 18 years old with no job, no mortgage payments, no significant other, no kids, no homework and no worries? Never. The answer is never.

### 4. You'll know what's important in life before most people do.

College is ridiculously fun, but it's easy to get so caught up that you begin to believe your fraternity or friend group is the absolute center of the universe. As such, any small crisis might seem like the end of the world. However, if you've traveled the wider world in all its complexity and glory, you'll understand there are bigger issues for humanity than a failed date night or lost game.

## *Continue Article: Benefits of Taking a Gap Year*

### **5. You'll be an expert at adapting to new places.**

On a gap year, you'll be forced to integrate into a new society, a new group of friends, and maybe even new languages or cultural norms. College requires similar adaptation skills, and you'll be much more prepared to handle it if you've already shifted societies once before.

### **6. You'll have something to talk about.**

Skip the same old "Where are you from?" and "What's your major?" chitchat, and nail the "What'd you do this summer?" question with stories from your gap year. You'll have first-hand opinions to share about people, places and ideas that your peers might have never even heard of.

### **7. You'll have a shinier resume.**

Oftentimes, a gap year involves staying in one spot and soaking up its culture, part of which means getting a job. No matter where you work — a sandwich stand in India or the embassy in London — you'll have valuable (international!) experience for your resume and can explain your ability to do business with customers from different cultures. If you travel on the cheap, you might even have some earnings left to use on college tuition.

### **8. You'll pick up the pieces you missed in high school.**

Slept through every Spanish class? Head to Argentina for your gap year, where you'll be forced to speak the language every day. Wish you knew more history? Spend time touring government buildings in Europe. A gap year is your time to refine the specific skills you feel like you're lacking and sharpen them up for college.

### **9. You'll have time to think.**

Life feels like it's unfolding fast right now, and in college, things only move faster. Give yourself room to think and breathe and *be* on long train rides from country to country or in days spent strolling through new towns. You'll be surprised where your mind wanders when you give it free rein.

### **10. You'll make new friends.**

How cool would it be to go through life knowing you have a best friend in Italy or a pen pal in New Zealand? Their unique perspectives on life will hugely enrich yours as you compare all the major events that happen in your 20s and beyond. Plus, you'll have crazy awesome places to visit during college breaks.

## Article: Benefits of Taking Dual Credits

Excerpts taken from: *The Top 10 Benefits of Earning Dual Credit this Year*  
By Becky Muldrow & the Dual Credit at Home Team  
[dualcreditathome.com/2016/08/top-10-benefits-earning-dual-credit-year/](http://dualcreditathome.com/2016/08/top-10-benefits-earning-dual-credit-year/)

Wondering if earning dual credit should be part of your educational plan this year? Dual credit programs are a great way for high school students to get a head start on their college education, enabling them to earn high school and college credits at the same time.

- 1. Dual credit options provide a significant cost savings** over a traditional college education. The cost of a college education has skyrocketed in recent years, making it harder and harder for students and families to afford the tuition of a four-year college program. Dual credit options offer a huge savings, enabling students to earn college credits without enrolling in a full-time college degree program.
- 2. High school students can begin their college education earlier.** Many students who complete dual credit programs in high school are able to earn a college degree while they are still teenagers.
- 3. Students study high school subjects at a more advanced, college level.** Instead of studying general education subjects in high school and then studying them again in college, students can earn college credits for studying high school subjects at a more advanced level.
- 4. The transition from high school to college is easier for most students who earn dual credit.** Dual credit students learn valuable skills that help them transition from high school to college. They work independently, learn important research and test-taking skills, and become expert note-takers.
- 5. Students can explore their academic interests in-depth before entering college.** Exploring college-level classes while still in high school will give students an opportunity to discover new academic interests before entering college.
- 7. Earn college credits without exposure to some of the negative aspects of life on campus.** College life isn't for everyone—at least not all aspects of college life. For many, the typical antics that take place on a college campus are a huge turn-off. Dual Credit at Home allows students to avoid some of these aspects of college life and focus entirely on their studies.
- 9. If you choose to enter college after completing a dual credit program you can take advantage of freshmen scholarships.** It's no secret that the majority of college scholarships are available to incoming freshmen, not transfer students. By choosing the dual credit option *while still in high school*, you can earn college credits, but still be classified as a freshman for scholarships and financial aid.

## Article: Vocational Trade School – Entering the Work Force

*What Are the Benefits of Vocational Training?*

By Dr. Kelly S. Meier

[www.theclassroom.com/benefits-vocational-training-8014338.html](http://www.theclassroom.com/benefits-vocational-training-8014338.html)

If you aren't sure that a university experience is right for you, consider vocational training. Focused on developing specific skills in career fields like auto repair, cosmetology, welding, medical billing and more, you can earn your degree in two years or less.

### **Benefits of Vocational Education**

There are many advantages of vocational education. Your classes will focus on the knowledge and skills that you need for a particular job, and the time and money that you expend is less than a four-year college program.

One of the benefits of vocational training is that you can jump right into classes that speak to your career passions. Unlike a university degree, you won't have to take general education classes that are unrelated to your career field. The reduced seat time for most certificates and degrees means that you'll begin learning new skills right away.

### **Gain Practical Experience**

One of the advantages of vocational training is that instructors are often industry professionals. The opportunity to learn from someone who works in the field will give you deep insight about what it takes to be successful on the job. Most programs include externships that will allow you to work in the industry for course credit. You may earn an apprenticeship or even a job as a result of this practical experience.

### **Get a Flexible Class Schedule**

Vocational training is designed to help nontraditional students go to school while juggling a job or family. Flexible class schedules include options for evening, weekend and online education. If you are trying to develop new career expertise, you can continue to work full time while going to school.

### **Enter the Work World Quickly**

One of the advantages of vocational education is that you can complete your vocational training in a short period of time. Program times vary, but some training can be completed in less time. For example, if you want to be an emergency medical technician, you can be ready to work after going to school for one semester.

## SAT vs. ACT Comparison Chart

Created by Bethanie Skipper, M.Ed

These exams are general prerequisites in applying for college/university in the U.S. It is important early on in high school to familiarize yourself with the differences. Typically, students take the practice in their sophomore year and then start the Spring of their junior year with administration. Here is a breakdown of both exams.

Test Info/ Questions to Consider	SAT	ACT
<b>Highest Score</b>	1600	36
<b>National Average</b>	1060	21
<b>How long does it take to complete entire test?</b>	3 hours plus 50-minute essay (optional)	2 hours and 55 minutes plus 40-minute essay (optional)
<b>What subjects are included in the test?</b>	Reading: 65 mins Writing and Language: 35 mins Math No Calculator: 25 mins Math Calculator: 55 mins Essay (optional): 50 mins	English: 45 mins Math: 60 mins Reading: 35 mins Science: 35 mins Writing (optional): 40 mins
<b>What is the total # of questions?</b>	154	215
<b>What is different between two tests?</b>	Vocabulary, Reason and Logic Science section is not included	Based on courses taught in school Science section is included
<b>Where can I get more information?</b>	<a href="http://www.collegeboard.org">www.collegeboard.org</a>	<a href="http://www.act.org">www.act.org</a>
<b>When are the tests offered?</b>	August, October, November, December, March, May and June	September, October, December, February, April, June and July
<b>When should I register?</b>	At least 4 weeks before the test date	At least 5 weeks before the test date

## College, Scholarship, and IB Program Resources

### **Assemblies of God Colleges**

<http://colleges.ag.org>

Links to all AG colleges. Request a free college guide, answer questions about why a student should attend an AG school, and more.

### **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

To apply for federal student financial aid, and state student aid programs, students must complete a FAFSA. The FAFSA will determine if student is eligible for financial aid.

### **SAT College Board**

[sat.collegeboard.com](http://sat.collegeboard.com)

Provides information about locations and registration for the SAT. Also provides test taking tips and other resources regarding the SAT.

### **ACT**

[www.act.org/](http://www.act.org/)

Information on the ACT test, registration, test prep, scores, etc.

### **International Baccalaureate**

[www.ibo.org/](http://www.ibo.org/)

IB offers three programs of international education from early childhood to pre-university age. Site offers search engine for each program and schools who offer IB programs in countries around the world.

### **Newsweek Education**

[www.newsweek.com/search/site/Education](http://www.newsweek.com/search/site/Education)

Current articles, links, and resources on education topics from around the world.

### **The Princeton Review**

[www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)

For more than 35 years, students and their families have trusted The Princeton Review to help them get into their dream schools. Mission is to provide personalized, innovative, best-in-class private tutoring, test prep, and admission products and services to help students knock down barriers and achieve their academic goals.

### **Online Scholarship Search Engines:**

- **Fastweb** [www.fastweb.com/](http://www.fastweb.com/)  
Search over 1.5 million in scholarships, search college and financial aid options, etc.
- **College Scholarship Search** [www.collegescholarships.com/](http://www.collegescholarships.com/)  
Scholarships for high school, undergraduate, graduate and international students.
- **Scholarships.com** [www.scholarships.com/](http://www.scholarships.com/)  
Search over 3.7 million college scholarships and grants.
- **Big Future College Board** [bigfuture.collegeboard.org/](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/)  
Find colleges, explore careers, pay for college, create your own roadmap.
- **College Net** [www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)  
Sign up for an account to vote for, and be eligible to receive, scholarship awards.

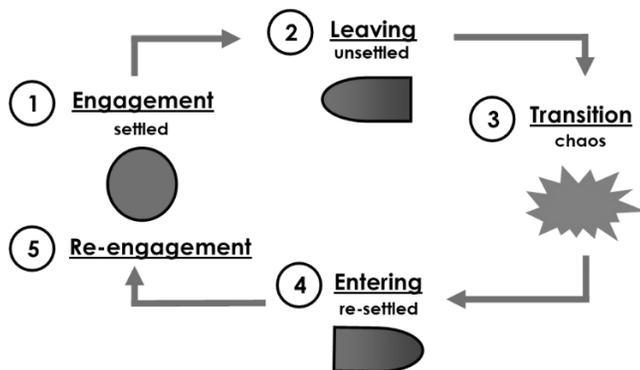
## **Additional Scholarship Sites/Application Essay Helps/Career Inventories:**

- [www.wiredscholar.com](http://www.wiredscholar.com)
- [www.collegescholarships.com](http://www.collegescholarships.com)
- [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
- [www.striveforstudents.com/scholarships.html](http://www.striveforstudents.com/scholarships.html)
- [www.studentconnections.org](http://www.studentconnections.org)
- [www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/apply/](http://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/apply/)
- [www.gallerycollection.com/greeting-cards-scholarship.htm](http://www.gallerycollection.com/greeting-cards-scholarship.htm)
- [bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers)
- [www.educationplanner.org/students/career-planning/find-careers/career-clusters.shtml](http://www.educationplanner.org/students/career-planning/find-careers/career-clusters.shtml)
- [www.princetonreview.com/quiz/career-quiz](http://www.princetonreview.com/quiz/career-quiz)
- [www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/act-profile.html](http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/act-profile.html)
- [www.truity.com/test/holland-code-career-test](http://www.truity.com/test/holland-code-career-test)

# Article: The Educational Transitional Experience

Revised from an article by Dr. Brenda Dickey

## Transition Model



The success of the educational transitional experience for your child depends on family support and each child's developmental stage. The stages of transition are described in Dave Pollock's book, *Third Culture Kids*. MKs will go through these stages as they face any type of life transition: engagement, leaving, transition, entering, and re-engagement. These phases are impacted by the stage of development of the child at the time of the transition. (See Transition Model.)

### Leaving

Parents need to discuss openly their own feelings of sadness with their children about leaving a place that is comfortable and "known." You should also discuss how your close family/friend relationships will change during and after the transition.

### Transition and Entering

Parents should help children focus on making new friendships as quickly as possible. This can be done by intentionally planning a time for children and youth to play games with others and their families or planning an outing together. It is worth the time and cost involved to let children say goodbye to known relationships and take time to develop new ones.

### Reengagement

Settle in a routine of school, church, and community. Extracurricular activities are good for this time (swimming teams, ball teams, art and music, etc). This is especially important during middle and high school adolescent development years. Providing daily family routines and time with supportive relationships can encourage smoother transitions. Parents can use literature to help the transition by reading to their children about other kids who have experienced new transitions. These things can help ease the difficulty of transitions for children and provide opportunity for discussions.

Some helpful literature is provided in the great resource book, *The New Kid in School* by Debra Rader and Linda Harris Sittig. It provides insight for teachers and parents to use in educational transitions.

## ***Continue Article: The Educational Transitional Experience***

There are also a couple of myths families need to address during transition.

**Myth 1**—Children will be impacted negatively by transitions; therefore, we need to avoid all transitional experiences.

No! Transitions are a part of life. Those who learn to navigate well during each transition re-engage quickly toward positive life experiences.

**Myth 2**—Children are so resilient that they will find a way to bounce back during all transitions without parental or others intentionally planning for positive engagement experiences.

No! Resiliency skills are taught by intentional planning, supportive modeling of friendship building, and coaching by parents and/or others who are significant to the child in the environment.

The goal is for children to move as quickly as possible from the leaving stage to the re-engagement stage of transition in order to minimize any negative impact on behavior.

## **MK Reentry Seminars:**

These are excellent opportunities for MKs to receive a comprehensive evaluation/summary of the various dynamics they will encounter as they adjust to the United States upon graduation from high school. These seminars fill up quick. Make sure you register by February 1 for that year's seminar.

- **Missionary Resources Connection** [mrcofnc.weebly.com/](http://mrcofnc.weebly.com/)
- **Interaction International** [www.interactionintl.org/](http://www.interactionintl.org/)
- **Barnabas International and Narramore Christian Foundation**  
[www.barnabas.org/member-care/events/mk-transitional-seminar](http://www.barnabas.org/member-care/events/mk-transitional-seminar)

## **ISMK Education Resources:**

The following items are available through the MK Office via your (00) account. There is a limit of one (1) of each item per family unit. Additional copies must be purchased as a personal expense. Contact [TCKIEducation@gmail.com](mailto:TCKIEducation@gmail.com) to request a resource or order online [ismk.org/](http://ismk.org/).

- ***Third Culture Kids*** by Pollock and Van Reken (\$20)  
The Experience of Growing Up Among Worlds
- ***Raising Resilient MKs*** Published by Association of Christian Schools International, Edited by Joyce M. Bowers (Free Download)  
Resources for caregivers, parents, and teachers
- ***Fitted Pieces*** Published by SHARE Education Services, edited by Janet R. Blomberg and David F. Brooks (\$18)  
A guide for parents educating children overseas

## Additional ISMK Education Resources:

### For Young Children/Elementary Age:

- *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* by Judith Viorst and Ray Cruz Jul 15, 1987
- *Alexander Who's Not (Do You Hear Me? I Mean It!) Going to Move* by Judith Viorst, 1995
- *Amber Brown is Not a Crayon* by Paula Danziger, 1994
- *Before I Leave: A Picture Book* by Jessixa Bagley Feb 16, 2016
- *The Berenstain Bears' Moving Day* by Stan and Jan Berenstain Oct 12, 1981
- *Boomer's Big Day* by Constance W. McGeorge and Mary Whyte Sep 1, 1996
- *The Color Monster: A Pop-Up Book of Feelings* by Anna Llenas September 1, 2015
- *The Feelings Board book* by Todd Parr September 21, 2005
- *Feelings Flash Cards: A Great Way for Kids to Share and Learn About All Kinds of Emotions Cards* by Todd Parr August 18, 2010
- *Grandfather's Journey* by Allen Say, 1993
- *Good-bye, House* by Robin Ballard, 1994
- *Harold and Stanley Say Goodbye* by Jill Dyer, 1998
- *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?: A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids* by Carol McCloud (Author), David Messing (Illustrator) October 1, 2015
- *I'm New Here* by Bud Howlett, 1993
- *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* by Bette Bao Lord, 1984
- *Ira Says Goodbye* by Bernard Weber, 1988
- *Let's Move Overseas* by Beverly Roman, 2000
- *Little Critter: We Are Moving* by Mercer Mayer Oct 9, 2012
- *The Lost and Found House* by Michael Cadnum, 1997
- *My Many Colored Days* by Dr. Seuss (Author), Steve Johnson (Illustrator), Lou Fancher (Illustrator) August 20, 1996
- *Moving to the Neighborhood (Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood)* by Alexandra Cassel and Jason Fruchter Dec 11, 2018
- *One Thing Never Changes* by Shawn Alyne Strannigan, 1995
- *Peanut Butter Friends in a Chop Suey World* by Deb Brammer, 1994
-  *We're Going Home: Reentry for Elementary Children* by Ron & Bonnie Koteskey, 2013
- *When Africa Was Home* by Karen L. Williams, 1991
- *Where in the World Are You Going?* by Judith M. Blohm, 1996
- *Yang the Third and Her Impossible Family* by Lensey Namioka, 1995

**For Youth/Teens:**

-  *Don't Pig Out on Junk Food: The MK's Guide to Survival in the U.S.* by Alma Gordon, 1993
- *Families on the Move: Growing Up Overseas and Loving It* by Marion Knell, 2001
- *Footsteps Around the World: Relocation Tips for Teens* by Beverly D. Roman, 1999
- *Homesick: My Own Story* by Jean Fritz, 1982
- *I Have to Be Perfect* by
- *Of Many Lands: Journal of a Traveling Childhood* by Sara Mansfield Taber, 1997
-  *Raising Global Nomads: Parenting in an On-Demand World* by Robin Pascoe, 2006
- *Rip Van Winkle* by Washington Irving 1999
- *Someone With You* by Larry Libby, 1998
-  *Third Culture Kids and Adolescence: Cultural Creations* by Ronald Koteskey, 2009
-  *Understanding Adolescence* by Ronald Koteskey, 1987, revised 2009
- *Up, Up, and Away* by Brenda Maxfield, 2000
- *The Year My Parents Ruined My Life* by Martha Freeman, 1997

 *Titles with this symbol can be read alone by the MK, or aloud by a parent with the child.*

## Article: MK Educational Transitional Years

*Revised from an article by Dr. Brenda Dickey*

Preparing MKs for educational transitions is an important part of the educational process when considering moving, especially around the world. It will help your child's transition if you have a long-range educational plan in place (*see Making an Educational Plan, pg. 7*).

You want your child to have a positive and successful school experience. The information below is intended to assist you in preparing your child when planning an educational transition experience. The information is broken into developmental stages with information about what a child is normally learning during that education stage and how to help your child if you are transitioning overseas or back to the U.S. during one of these stages.

### **Early Elementary Years (Grades K–5)**

These years are packed with learning to read, write, and establish math conceptualization for later learning success. During this time, developing a strong reading base in the student's first language is the foundation for successful learning in later developmental years. Writing development and a strong math foundation are also extremely important.

This is the time that children learn to love culture and languages. Play time, interaction with cultural groups, and extracurricular activities (music, art, sports) provide the best opportunities for learning languages and enjoying culture. Language development takes place naturally during these early years.

It is important to make an advance plan when you know your child will be transitioning to a new or different type of school. Your child's portfolio (*see pg. 15 for details on creating a portfolio*) will provide good information to help a new school place your child.

### **Middle School Years (Grades 6–8)**

These years are critical for identity development. Activities including music, art, and sports should encourage strong friendships that help build personal identity.

Also, during this time, students tend to want to identify with their first language culture. It cannot be stressed enough how important family involvement is during these years to help children develop healthy identities. It is also important to use this time to teach the history and culture of the passport culture along with encouraging long-distance family ties. This can be done while you are overseas, but it is important that these things do take place during these years. If this stage occurs during itineration, there are many opportunities to build a church "family" support via strong youth groups and children's programs.

### **High School Years (Grades 9–12)**

Academic credits are important during these years, so it is critical to plan appropriately. It is important to complete a full year of high school before transitioning to another school setting so that the student will receive full credit for course work completed instead of half credits. Some schools may offer the same subjects but divide the semesters differently. This could affect the number of credits awarded for a class. Completing a full year of high school before transitioning will help avoid credit loss.

When considering a school transition, it is important to remember that every school may require different subjects to be completed before graduation. The parent and student should investigate the necessary graduation requirements for a particular school that the student may attend.

***Continue Article: MK Educational Transitional Years***

AP courses and Honor courses are good choices for students who want to attend university. These are rigorous classes that prepare the student for university level work.

If you are required to make a transition in the middle of a school year, be sure to keep important information from your child's school (name of school, contact info, report cards, etc.), as well as your child's portfolio (see pg. 12 for information on creating a portfolio).

High school is also the time to begin preparing your MK for their transition to college and adult life. (See College Preparation pg. 52 for more details.) Encourage your high school child to reconnect with family in the U.S., especially if they choose to attend a college located near family members.

Remember that your child's success through transition partly depends on your support and helping him/her prepare for that transition. The ISMK Office is available to offer suggestions and helps if your child is struggling with transition.

# Practical Parenting Through the Educational Process

*Revised from an article by Dr. Brenda Dickey*

Your MK needs your support through the education process. Research shows that a good social support system at home and school is an important key for educational success.

You may assume that if your child attends a good school and works hard their hard work will be enough to achieve academic success. Your home is a very important source of support. That includes your guidance in creating positive social opportunities.

It is important to understand how your MK perceives your family support system. For instance, MKs may perceive support in terms of time spent together and listening to their concerns. When you are busy and do not have daily listening time for your student, support for their educational and emotional needs may suffer. This is especially true when your MK translates time with you, as a measure of caring.

If your student begins to develop a lack of interest in school, shows negative behavior or withdraws from normal activities, there may be a need for some special attention. Consistent daily interaction is important to the educational success of your MK.

When a student experiences stress in the school environment, they may need your listening ear. Students often want to talk about their experiences as they process what they are learning. Families who play and spend time together from an early age stay strong when their children go through stressful situations at school. Be willing to adjust your schedule and add or eliminate extra activities to help your child when he/she is struggling. Keep open communication with your child and allow him/her to talk with you about struggles they may be facing.

If you suspect your child's struggles are related to a learning disability, please feel free to contact the MK Office. There are education specialists and resources available for testing and helps if needed.

Help your MK understand the gifts and abilities God has created in them. Provide opportunities to improve those gifts. Do your best to find activities to help your child grow. Encourage them to stretch and improve their skills outside of the classroom. Look for activities like swimming, soccer, baseball, music, and art that your child can participate in and learn to grow.

Keeping open communication, spending regular time together, and playing together as a family will help your MKs stay strong educationally and emotionally. Your ministry is critical and can sometimes be stressful, but if you pour into your children they will succeed in school and learn to handle transition and change well.

## **Important Contact Information**

### **General Education Questions**

The ISMK Education Team is available to you for your educational needs. We will do our best to answer your questions or direct you to someone who can help you.

ISMK Education Team

[TCKIEducation@gmail.com](mailto:TCKIEducation@gmail.com)

[www.ismk.org](http://www.ismk.org); [www.tcki.org](http://www.tcki.org)

### **AGWM MK Education Policies**

For the most updated policies regarding MK education, consult your Missions Manual or direct questions to your Area or Regional Director's office.

### **AGWM MK Education Financial or Budget Questions**

For questions regarding MK education finances and budgets, contact your Area or Regional Director and/or your Regional Accountant.

### **Missionary Associate Education and Budget Questions**

If you are a Missionary Associate, direct education budget questions to your MA Regional Accountant.



**For more education resources visit**

**[www.ismk.org](http://www.ismk.org)**

**[www.tcki.org](http://www.tcki.org)**