

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN VISITING A SCHOOL

GENERAL SCHOOL CONCERNS

- What is the school's mission? The mission statement is usually a sentence or two that describes the school's values and purpose.
- How does the school approach safety or follow its code of conduct?
- How does the school approach discipline?
- What are the school's greatest successes?
- What are the school's greatest challenges?
- What is the student mobility rate? (*The student mobility rate represents the number of students leaving the school each year for reasons other than graduation.*)
- What is the teacher attrition rate? (*The teacher attrition rate represents the number of teachers leaving the school each year.*)

MEETING STUDENT NEEDS

- How does the school keep track of student academic progress (*grades in classes and test scores*)?
- How do teachers teach students who speak a language other than English?
- How do teachers help students catch up if they are falling behind?
- What services do you have for students with special needs or learning disabilities?
- How do students get to school? Is bus transportation available?
- Does the school have free or reduced-price meals for students who qualify based on family income?
- If a child is doing really well in his or her classes, does the school have advanced courses or programs that help them continue to succeed?

CLASSROOM AND LEARNING

- What rules and systems are most important in classrooms?
- What is the typical class size? What is the maximum class size?
- How is technology used to support teaching and learning?
- What additional activities are available for students?
- How does fine arts fit into the curriculum?

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- How can parents get involved?
- How do teachers and staff communicate with parents?
- What programs are available for parents to support their child's education?