

Private Vs. Public School: Which is Better?

Anonymous - 2021
Grammar 5th Period

Private or public school? This is a difficult decision many parents face when trying to decide on the best type of education for their children. Private school is the right choice when it comes to a complete and well-rounded education for many reasons.

Private school students have considerably higher reading test scores than public school students. For example, statistics presented by NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) compared public and private schools 8th grade reading scores. The average score in private schools was 18.1 points higher than the score in public schools (Grossberg, 2019). This is a significant difference, proving that private schools have better teaching methods.

One other important factor in deciding against public schools is the beneficial practice of receiving nontraditional elective courses like religious classes. Teaching religion was banned in public schools in 1962 by the U.S. Supreme Court, saying it went against the First Amendment (Lupa, Elwood, Davis, Masci, Tuttle, Berz, 2019). In private Catholic and Christian schools, religion classes are mandatory. Research shows that 26% of people who went to a religious service at least once a week had mostly A's. The same research says that 26% of students who go to a weekly church service were less likely to have their parents get contacted by their school. This goes to show that having religion classes in schools can positively affect the student grades and behavior.

Families might worry that they cannot afford a private education. This is a common assumption about the cost of private schooling. Both Catholic and private schools offer financial aid programs like scholarships and loans. In fact, according to NAIS (National Association Of Independent Schools), 20% of students who attend private school are assisted by some sort of financial aid. This averages to about \$20,000 a year (Grossberg, 2019).

Private schools also have a higher college acceptance rate. This is a very strong reason for choosing a private education and has lasting effects on life. According to statistics from CAPE (Council for American Private Education), 85% of high school seniors who attended a private high school met or exceeded the ACT average (CAPE, n.d).

Safety in public schools is an additional consideration for parents. Bullying is a common issue in public schools. There has been an increase in bullying by 35% from 2016 to 2019, and the number keeps rising (Patchin, 2019). There is a lot of proof that there is more bullying in public schools than private, but a poll conducted by RVSD Outliers is the most clear. The poll found that 47% of 6,000 private school students reported having more “accepting” peers. Public schools reported only 36% of this “accepting” trait (RVSD-Outliers.com, 2018).

In the end, all of the benefits of private school outweigh those of public school by a landslide. While public school may seem like the cheaper and easier option, it cannot compete with the long-lasting positive effects of private school. Deciding on a private education is a choice parents will not regret.

References

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