



## Guiding Questions: School Options for Autistic Individuals – Private and Public

Although all schools have guidelines for individuals with developmental disabilities, they may vary from location or place. Use the following questions to guide discussions with schools that you are interested in in order to better prepare the autistic individual and their supporting team to choose a school and work collaboratively with them to ensure long-term success.

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**County:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hours:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Website:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Specific Contact/Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

Questions	Answers, Related Resources, Suggestions
1. What is the annual tuition of the school? If my child has an autism scholarship, will it cover all of tuition? Is there any other financial assistance? Scholarships?	
2. What is the teaching methodology of the school? What types of evidence based interventions are used?	

<p>3. What kind of experience do the teachers have with autism? What are the staffs' credentials?</p>	
<p>4. What kind of a classroom will my child be in? For example, is it an integrated classroom or a resource room? What is the staff to student ratio? Will my student receive one on one instruction?</p>	
<p>5. What types of therapies are offered? For example, art, music, physical or occupational therapy?</p>	
<p>6. What is a typical school day like?</p>	
<p>7. Are visual supports used? Picture schedules, displayed routine reminders, token boards?</p>	
<p>8. What are the schools procedures for dealing with challenging behaviors? What is your policy on the use of restraints?</p>	

9. How do you communicate with parents?	
10. What happens if my child gets sick at school? Will the nurse be giving my child their medications? What are the nurses' credentials?	
11. What is the procedure for lunch? Will my child eat in the lunchroom or the classroom? Is there supervision during lunch? How are special diets handled?	
12. How do you collaborate with outside specialists and community agencies?	
13. How is transition planning approached including the use of vocational programs?	

14. Are there any outside services that you provide? Such as parent support groups, extracurricular activities for my child, etc.?	
15. How will transportation to and from school be handled?	
16. Do you offer specific Extended School Year (ESY) programming for students?	