



Private Schools: Aiming for Excellence

The Chicago area is home to many outstanding private schools, but because there are no standard figures by which to compare them, we chose not to rate the 25 best. Rather, we interviewed education experts in the area to compile a list of schools that are highly recommended and then sought additional data for the chart from the schools themselves.

Private Schools	Religious Affiliation	City	Grades in School	AVERAGE CLASS SIZE		Total School Enrollment	Pupil-Teacher Ratio
				Grade 1	Grade 6		
Alphonsus Academy and Center for the Arts	Catholic	Chicago	pre-K – 8	18	11	222	12.0/1
The Ancona School	none	Chicago	pre-K – 8	25*	16	260	9.0/1
Baker Demonstration School	none	Wilmette	pre-K – 8	20*	16*	360	8.0/1
Chicago City Day School	none	Chicago	pre-K – 8	16	20	275	8.0/1
Chicago Jesuit Academy	Catholic	Chicago	5 – 6	–	10	40	5.7/1
Council Oak Montessori School	none	Chicago	pre-K – 8	18*	10*	80	10.0/1
Frances Xavier Warde Schools	Catholic	Chicago	pre-K – 8	20	24	720	15.0/1
Francis W. Parker School	none	Chicago	pre-K – 12	18	16-18	590	9.0/1
The Hyde Park Day Schools	none	Chicago/Northfield	1 – 8	10	10	85	5.0/1
Immaculate Conception School	Catholic	Chicago (North Park Ave.)	pre-K – 4	20*	20*	210	10.0/1
Lake Forest Country Day School	none	Lake Forest	pre-K – 8	14	15	430	9.0/1
The Latin School of Chicago	none	Chicago	pre-K – 12	21	19	663	8.0/1
Morgan Park Academy	none	Chicago	pre-K – 12	16-18	18	240	12.0/1
North Park Elementary School	none	Chicago	K – 8	20	20	180	15.0/1
North Shore Country Day School	none	Winnetka	pre-K – 12	25*	18	286	9.0/1
P.L.A.I.D. Academy	none	Chicago	K – 8	12*	20*	50	15.0/1
Providence–St. Mel School	none	Chicago	K – 12	16	18	365	17.0/1
Queen of the Rosary School	Catholic	Elk Grove Village	pre-K – 8	15	30*	315	21.0/1
Sacred Heart School	Catholic	Winnetka	pre-K – 8	18	22	317	15.0/1
Sacred Heart Schools at Sheridan Road	Catholic	Chicago	K – 8	18-20*	18-20	650	8.5/1
St. Helen School	Catholic	Chicago	pre-K – 8	25*	25	275	23.0/1
St. Therese Chinese Catholic School	Catholic	Chicago	pre-K – 8	22	22	216	15.0/1
St. Zachary Catholic School	Catholic	Des Plaines	pre-K – 8	12	16	155	16.0/1
Solomon Schechter Day School	Jewish	Skokie/Northbrook	K – 5/K – 8	15	15	980	10.0/1
University of Chicago Laboratory Schools	none	Chicago	pre-K – 12	22	17	1,250	10.0/1

*These classrooms have more than one instructor, often a teacher and an assistant.

» The Hyde Park Day Schools

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Designed for children with learning disabilities, the school aims to return its students to mainstream schools, a transition one-third make within two years.