

# Finding A New School

What you can do before you arrive - questions to ask

- Look at ratings on websites such as [greatschools.org](http://greatschools.org)
- Take a look at the school districts' websites, you'll be surprised just how stark the differences are
- Familiarize yourself with the school district zones.
- What are the districts' test scores? What is the accreditation of the school(s)
- What programs are offered, what services are available?
- Network with parents that are already there. Maybe you can get information from other military parents via a local Facebook group or city-data?
- Search the local newspaper or the internet for local school ratings. There you will find schools with the highest down to the lowest ratings (that are on improvement plans)
- Find out what school placement is available in your new town. Colorado Springs has choice-in placement. This means you are NOT tied down to your school district or only one school. You may choose and apply for other schools in the district. If space available your student will be permitted into the desired school -though this means that the parent will have to take care of the transportation to and from the school.
- Familiarize yourself with school calendars -this gives you an idea about the school year organization in general
- If you have a high school student take a look at the 'feeder' schools for this high or middle school. This will indicate somewhat the climate of the middle and high school.
- Ask if a school will allow you to register your student prior to arrival -there will be so much to do that doing this ahead of time can be a heaven sent). This also would give your student extra time to familiarize him or herself with the school, maybe even contact coaches, teachers and group leaders at that particular school.