



GISA Statement on School Selection and Ranking

What is the best school for my child? How do I know?

The National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) states *'the "best" school — public, parochial, or independent — is the one that uniquely meets the needs of each particular child.'*

Georgia Independent School Association (GISA) Board of Trustees recognizes that selecting a school is a complex process and, in the end, parents know their children best and are the only ones uniquely empowered to make the appropriate informed selection. Therefore, GISA is and always has been opposed to any attempts to rank member schools by any organization for any purpose.

So how do you know if a school is right for your child? Making a school choice should not be one of a *'one size fits all'* selection. Independent schools were not created from a single mold. Each independent school defines:

- its own mission and objectives,
- the kind of program and campus culture the school provides, and
- the qualities that will help a student to succeed there.

Your child is unique. You must match your child's needs to the program that best aligns with his or her needs.

Independent schools offer differentiated programs for a variety of students and learning styles. Some of these schools are highly competitive by design; others intentionally create a nurturing atmosphere in which certain students will thrive; some focus on the arts, some on mathematics and science, and others on outdoor education.

The good news is Independent schools are to be judged, through their rigorous accreditation processes, according to what they individually set out to accomplish. The only school ranking that matters is the ***one you create based on your knowledge of your child.*** Your selection of a school should be a personal decision made by you, not one made by a third party.