

Founded over 220 years ago, this co-educational, college preparatory school boasts a low student-to-teacher ratio of 7:1 and average class size of 12. Cheshire strives to inform its students of international issues, they have students from around 30 countries and 42 states, thus creating global citizens. An international baccalaureate program stands out as an extremely unique opportunity for motivated students.

Choate Rosemary Hall

Wallingford, CT
 Enrollment: 859, 9 – post-grad,
 203-697-2000, choate.edu
 Spread over 400 acres and offering 240 courses, CRH attracts eager learners from across the globe. The school maintains a high level of academic achievement, but passionate teachers ensure that each individual becomes a critical, independent thinker. Outside the classroom, students excel as athletes, performers, and leaders. Offers programs in China, France, Spain, Japan, and Jordan.

● **Christian Heritage School**

Trumbull, CT
 Enrollment: 450, K - 12, 203-261-6230, kingsmen.org
 This school combines Christian values with a rigorous curriculum and strong athletic program. Through a challenging environment, students learn to face tough problems and take responsibility.

● **Connecticut Friends School**

Wilton, CT
 Enrollment: 60, Pre-K - 8, 203-762-9860, ctfriendsschool.org
 With 35 students in only 6 multi-age classrooms. The school establishes a formidable environment that challenges and enables students. Interweaves the best of Quaker education with the best of homeschooling.

● **Convent of the Sacred Heart**

Greenwich, CT
 Enrollment: 729, Pre-K – 12, all girls, 203-531-6500, cshgreenwich.org
 This independent Catholic, college-prep school teaches academic excellence, spiritual foundation, and modern facilities. Steeped in a solid academic tradition, Sacred Heart educates women to have independence of judgment, personal freedom, and strength of character so that they can become leaders.

● **Dana Hall School**

Wellesley, MA
 Enrollment: 469, 5- 12, all girls, 781-235-3010, danahall.org
 An independent boarding and day school for girls, Dana Hall fosters growth for each individual and prepares them for college and rich, rewarding lives. Students are exposed to challenges and develop analytical and creative thinking abilities through rigorous core requirements that focus intensely on



Written by
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True or False?

FAQs about private and independent schools

» **Private and independent schools are the same thing.**

False. An independent school is a private school but a private school isn't always independent.

Private schools don't receive funding from state government, and can be governed by for-profit, non-profit, or other outside institutions like churches. Independent schools also don't receive public funds—they fall under the private school umbrella—but, they are overseen by a truly outside, separate group such as a board of trustees or governors. Independent schools are also tightly governed, more expensive and, consequently, have better facilities. Additionally, they have larger endowments.

» **Kids who go to private school during their K-12 years are guaranteed to get into top-tier schools.**

False. Just because you send your child to a private school doesn't mean they're guaranteed to be

accepted into a college at all, much less a top-tier. There are many factors at play in the admission process and it all depends on your child's interests, strength and weaknesses, study habits, etc.

» **Sending your child to a private school prior to their college years is like sending them to college pre-emptively.**

True for a number of reasons—especially if it's a private boarding school. Just like college, kids need to take admissions test like the SSAT or ISEE. The instructors at most of these private education institutions also hold degrees in the subject of the class they teach, making them more like college professors.

Private school is most similar to college as far as cost goes. The national average for private school tuition cost in 2017-2018 was \$10,413 with private elementary school averaging \$9,398 and private high school averaging \$14,205. By state, Connecticut is

the most expensive tuition wise: the average tuition was \$24,835, for elementary school it was \$15,709, and private high school was \$31,893.

Connecticut's average acceptance rate is 70 percent and the national average acceptance rate is 85 percent. Litchfield County, Connecticut, is the most selective county with an average acceptance rate of 52 percent; the most selective school is the Hotchkiss School, a co-ed boarding school, with an acceptance rate of 19 percent. That said, financial aid packages may be offered.

» **Private schools focused strictly on academics.**

False. Although academics are a priority and taken very seriously so are extracurriculars. At some schools, athletics and other extracurriculars are actually mandatory to ensure that your child is well rounded, working their body and mind as well as spirit if the school is religiously affiliated.