



Resources / Child care / School & education

[Find babysitters on Care.com >](#)

# Is an All-Boys School the Right Fit for Your Son?



Judy Koutsky  
May 12, 2015

Here are some pros and cons to consider in making your decision.



Are you wondering about whether to send your son to an all-boys school? What are the pros and cons of a single-sex education? If you're trying to make that important decision for your child, here are some pros and cons to consider:



## Pros

Many experts agree that boys and girls learn in different styles. "A boy-friendly learning environment, whether a classroom or a school, allows teachers to make slight but significant changes in volume of speaking voice, frequent checks of understanding to maintain focus on the topic, incorporation of motion into learning activities and use of mild team-based competition -- the cumulative effect of which is to increase boys' level of engagement with the class material," says [Dr. Kevin M. Miller](#), the associate head of academics at [Blue Ridge School](#), a boys' boarding school in St. George, Virginia. "Boys who are engaged in the class are more likely to feel genuinely connected to the teacher, and as a result, will work harder for that teacher and take more educational risks in that class, leading to true academic growth."

Another benefit is that boys may participate in activities that they may have previously deemed more girl-focused, such as drama, singing and dance, explains [Alina Adams](#), an admissions consultant, author and mother of two all-boys school grads.

"In a co-ed school," says Dr. Miller, "the balance of power -- social, extracurricular and academic -- isn't a balance. Boys' sports may get more attention in the press, but student leadership, academic honors, school clubs and societies are very often naturally dominated by girls." He says this is because girls tend to "stay more organized and get things done better than boys, and boys cede this dominance, retreating instead into a more narrowly defined sphere of power -- almost always sports." He adds that "this tends to disempower all those boys who are not natural jocks. In an all-boys school, all the power -- and all the responsibility -- must rest with boys, and they respond well to that challenge."

## Cons

"Some boys will feel that they are missing out on a normal high school life because they are not around girls 24/7," says Dr. Miller. Other experts feel that co-ed schools are better

preparing students for the real world.

"Research shows that boys and girls do learn differently, but being in school with students of the opposite gender builds acceptance and tolerance for different learning styles and different ways of thinking," says [Peggy Dettlinger](#), the head of lower school at University Liggett School in Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan. "Co-ed schools better reflect the diversity students will ultimately experience when they enter the work force. Since they have learned to respect each other's feelings and viewpoints from an early age, students are more comfortable communicating and interacting with the opposite gender as they get older."

### **How Can You Decide if a Single-Gender Education Is Best?**

Sit with your son and make a list of what's working for him at his current school and what's not. If you and your child are seriously considering a single-gender school, Dr. Miller suggests that your son "try out" an all-boys school by shadowing another student for a day, so he can experience the atmosphere for himself. That way he can compare it to his current co-ed school and together, you and your child can make a list of pros and cons. There's no one answer that fits each child and what is right for your son may not be for another boy. With careful research and open discussions, you can find the right choice for your family.

For more on single-gender education, read [Is an All-Girls School the Right Fit for Your Daughter?](#)

*Judy Koutsky is the former editorial director of "KIWI magazine," a green parenting publication. She was also executive editor of [Parenting.com](#), AOL Parent and [BabyTalk.com](#). Follow her on [Twitter](#).*

Tips and stories from parents and caregivers who've been there.

Sign up for our newsletter

School & education

Child care

Leave a comment

Create a free account with Care.com and join our community today.

Sign up

You may also like



SCHOOL & EDUCATION

**The US ranks lower than 38 countries when it comes to our kids' well-being**



CHILD CARE

**When child care can't be cancelled: How one doctor and nanny have adapted for coronavirus**

SCHOOL & EDUCATION



## The 12 best online tutoring services for 2020



CHILD CARE

## 34 simple ways to help others during the COVID-19 pandemic



SCHOOL & EDUCATION

## Grade skipping: Is it the right choice for my child?



CHILD CARE

## School's out for COVID-19: How parents are navigating the impending child care crisis



SCHOOL & EDUCATION

## How to skip a grade: What are the requirements?



CHILD CARE

## Your nanny tells you she's pregnant: Now what?

How much should you pay for a babysitter?

[Babysitting rate calculator](#)



[Care.com](#) [Community](#) [Guides](#) [Safety Center](#)

---

[About Us](#) / [Help](#) / [Local Directory](#) / [For Business](#) / [Terms of Use](#) / [Privacy Policy](#)

Care.com is the world's largest online destination for care. We connect families with caregivers and caring companies to help you be there for the ones you love.

Care.com does not employ any care provider or care seeker nor is it responsible for the conduct of any care provider or care seeker. Care.com provides information and tools to help care seekers and care providers connect and make informed decisions. However, each individual is solely responsible for selecting an appropriate care provider or care seeker for themselves or their families and for complying with all applicable laws in connection with any employment relationship they establish. The information contained in member profiles, job posts and applications are supplied by care providers and care seekers themselves and is not information generated or verified by Care.com. Care.com does not provide medical advice, diagnosis or treatment or engage in any conduct that requires a professional license.

Care.com and "There for you" are service marks or registered service marks of Care.com, Inc. © 2007-2020 Care.com. All rights reserved.

The care you need. The jobs you'll love.

[Find caregivers or jobs](#)