

Embassy Schools

The genesis of embassy schools was the need to educate the children of diplomats serving overseas. Enrollment is generally limited to children whose parents are on diplomatic missions, although exceptions exist depending on the bylaws of the embassy school.

Department Of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS)

Schools under the direction of the Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS) fall under the leadership of the U.S. Department of State Office of Overseas Schools and they are solely composed of American children that have one or both parents deployed overseas.

Department of State Schools

Department of State schools are similar to the above models however enrollment includes, "children of employees of other government agencies and private businesses, as well as host-country and third country nationals".

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS



INTERNATIONAL BOARDING SCHOOLS

Some international schools also function as boarding schools. Two models of boarding are common. Some boarding programs draw from a nearby urban area sufficiently far to make daily commuting unrealistic. These students spend the weekend with their parents returning to the school to board during the week. The more traditional boarding programs draw from very large regions making any form of commuting unrealistic. In addition to specialized boarding facilities, food services and medical services must also be provided. Boarding programs also have trained pastoral and supervisory personnel to care for the students outside of the classroom.

FUN FACT

At times students need to spend holidays and vacations on campus due to travel restraints which can require faculty to reside on campus during these times.



DISTINGUISHING FACTORS OF GOV'T SCHOOLS

Although a multitude of schools label themselves international, the roots of many international school systems are closely aligned with the United States government.

The interconnected nature of these three models can create confusion for educators and parents searching for an international education for their children but a unifying factor is the leadership within these organizations mirrors the U.S. system and they are beholden to U.S. regulations regarding testing and standards.

These schools may have less autonomy than the below models regarding their governing body, accreditation, curriculum, and sources for funding



TYPES OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS



Making a world of difference



FOR-PROFIT, CORPORATE, PROPRIETARY, FRANCHISE & NICHE SCHOOLS

FUN FACT

There is a growing market within the for-profit sector of international education. The autonomy of niche schools is dependent upon the governing body, which can have a direct impact upon accreditation, curriculum, and sources for funding.

NONPROFIT, NOT-FOR-PROFIT SCHOOLS



Nonprofit and not-for-profit international schools are composed of expatriates from multinational companies, government organizations, NGOs, and private companies. Nonprofit and not-for-profit international schools may also include cooperative community schools, foundation schools, contract schools, and religious schools. Nonprofit and not-for-profit have autonomy over their governing body, accreditation, curriculum, and funding sources.

FUN FACT

Currently, nonprofit and not-for-profit schools are the most frequently found model of international school.

The umbrella terminology of international schools can also include for-profit, corporate, proprietary, and franchise schools. These school models are often owned by companies that operate in several countries and they are sometimes classified as transnational corporations. Recent attention has focused on organizations that are operating chains of international schools; these may include for-profit (e.g., Cognita, GEMS Education, Nord Anglia Education), corporate type (e.g., Saudi Aramco Expatriate Schools, QSI), proprietary (e.g., GEMS, Oberoi International), and franchise schools (e.g., Dulwich, Harrow). The lack of framework and distinct categories for these schools creates a large amount of crossover in distinguishing these schools from one another.