



School Life in Focus: The Boarding Advantage

RESULTS FROM THE SCHOOL
LIFE IN FOCUS SURVEY





In today's ever-changing world, families want to give their children a competitive edge. As parents weigh educational options, high-quality data and references can help families make better decisions.

The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS) and Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS) surveyed over 9,500 high school students and nearly 1,500 alums across North America in the spring of 2024. This research makes clear that boarding schools offer a holistic and immersive learning experience that goes well beyond traditional schooling. The investment in a boarding school education offers so much more than academic excellence — it prepares young people to navigate the challenges and seize the opportunities of the future.

Boarding schools are a launchpad for academic, professional, and personal success.



Boarding school students and alums...



value learning more,



find their work more engaging,



feel more successful in school and in life,

THE SCHOOL LIFE
IN FOCUS SURVEY
RECEIVED

11,000+

STUDENT & ALUMNI
RESPONSES



100+

Boarding, Day,
and Public Schools
Across North America

and report more positive experiences on **55 of 65** critical long-term success and personal development indicators.



Boarding schools provide personalized, supportive, and challenging academic environments.



Boarding schools offer personalized instruction that empowers students to thrive. Free from distractions, they receive tailored support to build their confidence and achieve their full potential. In fact, boarding school students are 28% more likely to feel they have a voice and choice in their education compared to their non-boarding peers.

With academically challenging environments, dedicated teachers, and 24/7 access to resources, students are equipped for success. This immersive experience fosters problem-solving skills, self-advocacy, and a sense of ownership over their learning journey.

“I love this school, the classes are small enough for each student to have one on-one time with their teacher, and it’s like a little family here.”

– 8th Grade Boarding School Student

Boarding school students are...



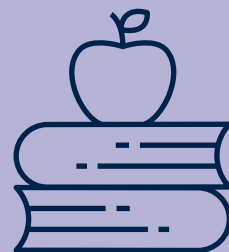
50% more likely
than non-boarding school
students to learn one-on-one
with their teachers.



Nearly **80%** more likely than non-boarding school
students to spend at least ten hours per week engaged
in academic work outside the classroom.



More likely to say
that their teachers are
positive role models
and that their teachers
consider their unique
learning needs and
experiences.



Boarding schools foster engagement and well-being.

As parents, we want our children to flourish. With their close-knit living and learning environments, boarding schools create a strong sense of belonging and connection. When compared to students at day schools and public schools, our research shows that boarding school students are glad to be where they are.

Our data also show that boarding school students are more likely to say they lead purposeful and meaningful lives, actively contribute to the happiness and well-being of others, and feel optimistic about their futures. These students credit their schools with helping them develop essential interpersonal skills like conflict resolution, empathy, and open-mindedness.



“I love my school. The community is very rich in culture and encourages kindness. I feel safe and held. This is my second home.”

– 10th Grade Boarding School Student

Boarding school students are...

15%+ more likely than their non-boarding school counterparts to say their school helped them develop:



Conflict Resolution Skills



Empathy



Open-Mindedness

88%

more likely to have one or more trusted adults at school.



less likely to witness or experience bullying at school than their non-boarding school peers.

46% less likely to report spending many hours watching television, streaming services, or playing video games.





Boarding schools not only prepare students for college but also empower them to excel in life. Boarding school students report that their experiences have equipped them with the self-motivation, goal-setting abilities, leadership skills, and resilience to face any obstacle.

Our data show that boarding school alumni have a greater appreciation for other cultures and feel more confident communicating with those whose opinions and perspectives differ from their own. Boarding school alumni also report that they feel more respected among their peers as leaders when compared to alumni from non-boarding schools. Those who graduated from boarding schools were 16% more likely to report that their school prepared them for their job and career.



“Boarding school changed my life. It gave me purpose, direction, identity, work ethic, motivation, and a support system. I attribute nearly everything good that has happened in my professional life to the skills and relationships I built there.”

– Boarding School Alumnus, Class of 2006

Boarding school alums report being happier, healthier, more successful, and more optimistic about the future.



Boarding school alumni are...



26%
more likely to say
their school helped
them achieve
their goals.



15% more likely than
non-boarding school
alums to say their
school prepared them
for living on their own
and managing their
social life at college.



19% more likely to say
their school helped them
learn to manage their time
well in college.

more likely to say their school helped them develop
leadership skills than non-boarding school peers.



A LIFETIME OF OPPORTUNITY

The evidence is clear: boarding schools offer a transformative experience that sets students up for success in all facets of life. From fostering academic excellence and personal growth to cultivating strong bonds and preparing for the future, these institutions provide an environment where children flourish. A boarding school education is an investment in a brighter future marked by resilience, purpose, and a lifelong love of learning.



Discover the extraordinary opportunities at:



BoardingSchools.com



BoardingSchools.ca

About the Survey and Methodology

The School Life in Focus Survey is a collaborative initiative between TABS (The Association of Boarding Schools) and CAIS (Canadian Accredited Independent Schools). AH Datalytics conducted the TABS and CAIS study from March to May 2024. TABS and CAIS received responses from over 11,000 students and alumni from over 100 boarding, day, and public schools across North America.

About TABS

The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS) is a member association of over 200 boarding schools throughout North America and worldwide. Our mission is to counsel, connect, and champion boarding schools. We deliver professional learning, timely data, actionable insights, and opportunities for community and belonging within and throughout our membership. We connect our schools with families eager to learn about the transformational value of a boarding school education. Learn more at www.TABS.org

About CAIS

The Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS) has over 95 members including 29 boarding schools. A network of Canada & Bermuda's best independent schools, CAIS is both an accrediting body and an association providing professional learning, research, and advocacy in areas of leadership and governance. We help our schools shape a courageous compassionate world through continual school improvement. Learn more at www.cais.ca

About AH Datalytics

AH Datalytics is a consulting firm dedicated to incorporating 21st-century analytics into the foundation of organizations that serve the public good. Its goal is to build innovative solutions that expand your organization's capacity to embrace data-driven decision-making. We bring a wealth of expertise in analyzing, disseminating, and presenting information to key decision-makers and assist organizations in effectively conveying their analytics to the public.

Learn more at www.ahdatalytics.com



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