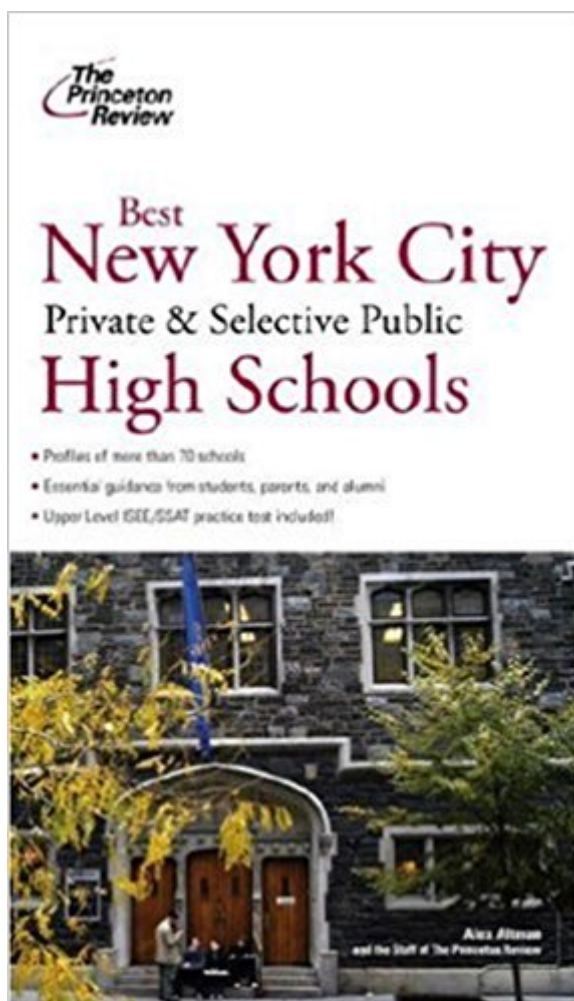


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Best New York City Private And Selective Public High Schools (College Admissions Guides)



Synopsis

Best New York City Private and Selective Public Schools is an insider's look at the best private high schools and the most competitive parochial and selective public high schools in all 5 boroughs of New York City. It features student and parent feedback and insider details about admission procedures and extra-curricular offerings for over 70 high schools. Best New York City Private and Selective Public Schools also includes a practice ISEE (Independent School Entrance Exam). Many private schools require the ISEE as part of the admissions process, and so taking a practice test is an ideal way to prepare to apply.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a New York City educational consultant who specializes in private school admission, I keep up with books and articles about schools. You'd think I'd have a lot to read, but actually, there's not that much information. Private schools are indeed private, many, particularly the schools that are most sought after, like to keep their facts to themselves. For obvious reasons prospective families want to know, which is why I congratulate Princeton Review for pulling off this guide. The writers offer some useful information about admission and a nice listing of high schools, which helpfully includes private as well as selective public. The book would be even better if some well-known schools had provided facts the writers sought, such as more information about admissions, curriculum, student body, and environment.

Simply: I have high expectations for a book produced under the aegis of Princeton Review, but this guide book has shocking flaws. The descriptive portions of the entries are drawn directly from the schools' own websites and catalogues, providing no editorial guidance, objectivity, or even oversight. Worse, the book is unusable even for simple reference because much of the basic information provided for individual schools (number of students, grades served, etc.) is just plain incorrect. The editors haven't even troubled to standardize the format, such that--for example--some schools that exclusively serve a special needs population are identified as specialized schools, while others are not. I do think that the introductory section, which describes the private school world and attempts to demystify it for families who might be intimidated about applying, would be very useful. And it does provide an alphabetical listing of schools along with their addresses and phone numbers, but other than that, it is not to be trusted. There are much better resources out there.

This book is essential to the private-school selection process on two fronts. Not only does it prove a valuable resource for insider information on each of the schools (info you won't find through other sources that will help lead families to making the best decision), but the first section also walks you through aspects surrounding the private school experience at large. This includes exploration of knowing whether to choose a private school over a public one, which kinds of students fare best in private schools, making the adjustment to the lifestyle, expectations of private school students, and more. For families even considering private school, this book is thought-provoking and guides intelligently.

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