What is it like for parents to choose a public school in cities that provide multiple options? According to a survey of 4,000 public school parents in eight “high-choice” cities, including Detroit, parents’ experiences vary widely. Detroit was among the few places where parents with a high school diploma or less were nearly as likely to choose a non-neighborhood-based public school as parents with a bachelor’s degree or more. Compared to other cities, parents in Detroit were the most likely to report trust and confidence in their school system’s ability to provide all neighborhoods with great public schools. Yet just half of parents in Detroit reported they had another good public school option available to them besides their current school, and only 38% reported the schools were getting better. Parents of children with special needs were significantly more likely to report that the available schools did not provide a good fit. For the full report comparing all eight cities, visit crpe.org.

### How Parents Choose a School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parents with a high school diploma or less</th>
<th>Parents with a bachelor’s degree or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What types of schools do parents choose?</td>
<td>What is most important to parents in choosing a school?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59% Choose a non-neighborhood public school</td>
<td>Safety 64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55%</td>
<td>Location 73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56%</td>
<td>Academics 52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### How Parents Perceive Their Options

- 38% Report the schools are getting better
- 50% Report that another good option was available to them

### Parents’ Trust and Confidence in City Leaders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How much trust and confidence do parents have in the school system to make sure all neighborhoods have great schools?</th>
<th>How much trust and confidence do parents have in city leaders to address public problems?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66% Report a great deal or a fair amount</td>
<td>54% Report a great deal or a fair amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacks 60%</td>
<td>Blacks 49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanics 69%</td>
<td>Hispanics 59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites 74%</td>
<td>Whites 66%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Detroit

**Common Barriers to Choosing a School**

- **Available schools weren’t a good fit**
  - 41% Report difficulty

- **Understanding which schools their child was eligible to attend**
  - 35% Report difficulty
  - 37% of parents with a high school diploma or less
  - 30% of parents with a bachelor’s degree or more

- **Difficult or confusing paperwork**
  - 17% Report difficulty
  - 18% of parents with a high school diploma or less
  - 16% of parents with a bachelor’s degree or more

- **Number of applications**
  - 20% Report difficulty
  - 24% of parents with a high school diploma or less
  - 20% of parents with a bachelor’s degree or more

- **Different application deadlines**
  - 19% Report difficulty
  - 23% of parents with a high school diploma or less
  - 18% of parents with a bachelor’s degree or more

- **Finding transportation for their child to and from school**
  - 29% Report difficulty
  - 33% of parents with a high school diploma or less
  - 26% of parents with a bachelor’s degree or more

### How Parents Become Informed About Their Options

- **Parents use on average 3 information sources**

- **52% of parents say visiting the school is the most useful information source**

- **25% are unable to get information needed to choose**
  - 32% of parents with a high school diploma or less
  - 20% of parents with a bachelor’s degree or more

### How Parents Get Their Child to School

- **50% of parents report driving their child to and from school**

### Trip Time (Each Way) for Children in Non-Neighborhood Public Schools

Children in non-neighborhood public schools traveled longer (1 minute longer than those in neighborhood public schools).

**00:15:00**