

Private Education- Part 1: Introduction ^[1]

Private Education

by Chris Myers and Jaquelin Drane Nash, 2006; Revised November 2022.
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See also: [Private Higher Education](#) ^[2]; [Public Education](#); ^[3][Bennett College](#) ^[4]; [Bingham School](#) ^[5]; [Caldwell School](#) ^[6]; [Clio's Nursery](#) ^[7]; [Davidson College](#) ^[8]; [Duke University](#) ^[9]; [Liberty Hall](#) ^[10]; [North Carolina Association of Independent Colleges and Universities](#) ^[11]; [Queen's College](#) ^[12]; [Saint Augustine's College](#) ^[13]; [Salem Academy and Salem College](#) ^[14]; [Wake Forest University](#) ^[15].

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Part 1: Introduction

Private education has had a long, diverse, and distinguished history in North Carolina. The state's private schools, both on the preparatory and college levels, have grown from the initial efforts of a few individual teachers during settlement and the early [colonial period](#) ^[19] to more than 600 academies and 36 colleges and universities. The success or failure of the earliest schools often reflected changing social and economic trends, with most surviving only a short time and a few serving as the first incarnation of some of the state's modern-day institutes of higher learning. In 2006 North Carolina had 36 private liberal arts colleges and universities, enrolling more than 75,000 students. The [North Carolina Association of Independent Colleges and Universities](#) ^[20] represents these institutions in legal and professional matters at both the state and federal levels.

Keep reading >> [Part 2: Private Academies in Colonial North Carolina and Early Statehood](#) ^[16]  ^[16]

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