

Transferring To and From the American School System

There is a general level of concern about the “transferability” of children into and back out of the US system. This is a genuine problem as there are considerable differences between the US and International styles of education. The problem seems to be most acute with the younger children (aged about 5-7). A child transferring between systems at or around those ages will find it most difficult than at other ages. This is because at that age in the US system, they will only be beginning to read, write and do maths, whereas in other systems they will have been doing that type of work for a year or two. A child arriving in the US at that age would be extremely bored, and there seems to be little flexibility to address the problem. At the opposite end of the scale, a child returning to an International system might well find that they are behind their peers.

By the age of 9 or 10, it is said that children in the US system will be level with their international peers in the core subject areas of reading, writing, and math. However, they are likely to have covered different material in the wider curriculum areas such as history and geography. In Texas, these subjects are generally taught together under the heading “Social Studies” and, as may be expected, have a very American (if not Texan) focus. Modern languages are another area which is paid less emphasis within US schools.