









Classical vs. Modern Education



The classical education movement is gaining momentum, with more parents seeking a strong foundation for their children's learning. So, classical vs. modern education—what's the difference? Let's look at the history, philosophy, and methodologies of each system to help you decide which path is right for your child.

	Classical	Modern
Origins	 <p>Developed in Ancient Greece, adopted by the Roman Empire, preserved by Christendom, and revitalized today.</p>	 <p>Emerged in the 18th and 19th centuries with the rise of the nation-state and industrialism.</p>
Philosophies	 <p>Focuses on the pursuit of truth, beauty, and goodness and building a strong foundation in core skills.</p>	 <p>Varied philosophies with a focus on student-centered learning, economic outcomes, and standardization.</p>
Curricula	 <p>Structured and sequential, building upon the Trivium (grammar, logic, rhetoric) and quadrivium (arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy).</p>	 <p>A variety of student-centered approaches like subject-based learning and project-based learning.</p>
Methodologies	 <p>Teacher-centered during the early stages, transitioning to analysis and discussion. Emphasizes memorization, close reading of “great texts,” and discussion.</p>	 <p>Student-centered, with activities developed around collaboration, active learning, student-led classes, and so on.</p>