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All-girls schools perform well in UK school league tables

All-girls' schools are making a comeback in the United States, reversing a long period of decline.

After several decades in which single-sex boys schools were increasingly opened to a mixed intake, there is now a trend for girls to be taught separately again.

Behind this trend is the belief that girls benefit from being taught in single-sex classrooms, with their performance improving when taken away from the competition and attention-seeking of boys.

As well as schools switching to an all-female entry, there are more individual classes - particularly maths and science - in which boys and girls are taught separately.

### 'Confident, competent daughters'

The National Coalition of Girls' Schools, based in Concord, Massachusetts, says it wants to produce "confident, competent daughters" who are as at ease with technology as boys.

Within an all-girl environment, the coalition says girls can develop greater confidence in sport and debating, as well as in academic subjects.

In a survey of ex-pupils from all-girls' schools, the coalition says that a very high proportion believed that single-sex education had benefited them and given them greater confidence.

In the United Kingdom, all-girl schools have consistently been among the highest-scoring in exam league tables - and on average girls are out-performing boys in a majority of academic subjects,

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There has been an ongoing debate over whether boys benefit most from mixed-classes - and whether this has been at the expense of girls.

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