

America's Best High Schools

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These are challenging times for secondary education. Cash-strapped school districts are cutting back; No Child Left Behind mandates test results; parents and students stress unabated. NEWSWEEK, which has been ranking the top public high schools in America for more than a decade, revamped its methodology this year in hopes of highlighting solutions. We enlisted a panel of experts—Wendy Kopp of Teach For America, Tom Vander Ark of Open Education Solutions (formerly executive director for education at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), and Linda Darling-Hammond, Stanford professor of education and founder of the School Redesign Network—to develop a yardstick that fully reflects a school's success turning out college-ready (and life-ready) students. To this end, each school's score is comprised of six components: graduation rate (25%), college matriculation rate (25%), AP tests taken per graduate (25%), average SAT/ACT scores (10%), average AP/IB/AICE scores (10%), and AP courses offered (5%). **Below are the top 20 schools from a list of 500.**

Rank	School	City	State
1	School of Science and Engineering Magnet	Dallas	TX
2	School for the Talented and Gifted Magnet	Dallas	TX
3	BASIS Tucson	Tucson	AZ
4	Stanton College Preparatory	Jacksonville	FL
5	Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science	Bowling Green	KY
6	Jefferson County IB School	Birmingham	AL
7	Signature School	Evansville	IN
8	University	Irvine	CA
9	Suncoast Community	Riviera Beach	FL
10	North Hills Preparatory	Irving	TX
11	Carnegie Vanguard	Houston	TX
12	International School	Bellevue	WA
13	Loveless Academic Magnet Program (LAMP)	Montgomery	AL
14	Pine View School for the Gifted	Osprey	FL
15	Academic Magnet	North Charleston	SC
16	City Honors School	Buffalo	NY
17	New Explorations into Science, Technology and Math (NEST+m)	New York	NY
18	High Technology	Lincroft	NJ
19	The Early College at Guilford	Greensboro	NC
20	International Academy	Bloomfield Hills	MI