



DATA

Has Princeton lost its appetite for feeder schools?



Using the Freshman Herald, a since-discontinued yearbook of the incoming freshman class, the 'Prince' generated a list of 250 high schools that have produced an average of **at least one Princetonian per year** for a decade-long period beginning in the early 2000s. Even 10 years ago, they accounted for as much as **40 percent** of each Princeton class.



“When you look at schools like [Thomas Jefferson] and Stuyvesant, you have to test into those schools, so the kids who are going to the schools are already high test takers, they’re smart kids, they are naturally gifted in academics. Empirically, those are the kinds of kids who are going to do well in the metrics that end up leading you to places like Princeton.”

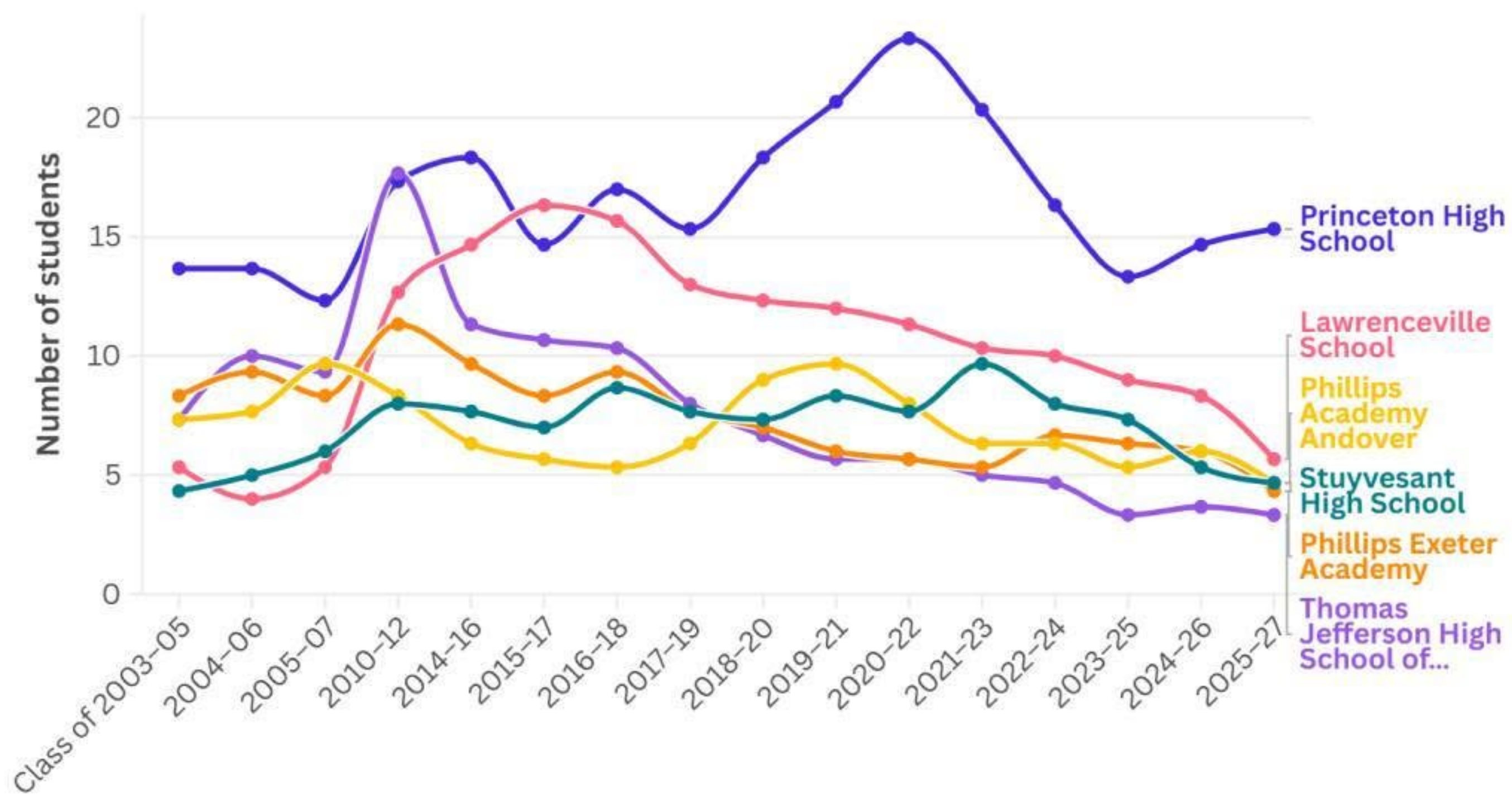
Allison Slater Tate '96, director of college counseling at a small Florida private school and college consultant



But that does not mean that admission to Princeton from a well-known private school is a given. Over the course of the last six admissions cycles, on average, **12.5 percent** of Exeter students who applied to Princeton were accepted, according to documents obtained by the 'Prince.' For the Class of 2025, Princeton admitted **4.38 percent** of all applicants. The University no longer promotes its acceptance rate.



Three-year average for the top six feeder schools to Princeton



Source: Freshmen Herald • Classes of 2008, 2009, and 2013 not included.
Chart by Grace Zhao and Miriam Waldvogel / The Daily Princetonian
Figures for Lawrenceville and Stuyvesant may be small undercounts in years after 2020.



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Caption: Princeton's Class of 1928 included 61 men from the Lawrenceville School, approximately 10 percent of the University's student body. The school — located just minutes down the road from campus — was “founded avowedly as a feeder to Princeton,” in the words of The Daily Princetonian in 1897.

Let's fast forward 100 years. In Princeton's Class of 2028, more than 20 percent of students are eligible for federal Pell Grants. 16 percent are the first in their families to go to college. Roughly half identify as non-white.

Even so — some old habits die hard.

Tap the link in our bio for the full story. Reporting from Andrew Bosworth, Grace Zhao, Alexa Wingate, and Miriam Waldvogel. Post design by Amparo Sanchez. Photo credit: Louisa Gheorghita / The Daily Princetonian.

Alt Text: Image of Nassau Hall; the lower part is a black background; orange text reads “DATA”; white text reads “Has Princeton lost its appetite for feeder schools?”