

N.J.'s top high schools ranked by latest state scores. See the full list.

- Updated: Apr. 25, 2024, 7:38 a.m. |
- Published: Apr. 25, 2024, 7:00 a.m.

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The top high school in New Jersey is an ultra-competitive magnet school in Middlesex County, [according to new data](#) released by the state Department of Education.

New Jersey released an update to its [controversial school ratings system](#) this month that gives parents a look at how their schools compare to others, using data from the 2022-23 school year.

[Woodbridge Academy Magnet School](#), a specialized biomedical high school in the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical School District, had the highest rating in the state, with a perfect score. The high school, which recently changed its name from Middlesex County Academy for Allied Health and Biomedical Sciences, requires students to submit an application and take an admissions test. The school was ranked second in the state the previous year.

Magnet schools, technology academies and other specialized high schools dominate the top of the list, representing 23 of the top 25 schools. The highest ranking general education school is Haddonfield Memorial High School in the 24th spot. **(Look up your high school below.)**

NJ Advance Media assigned each school a ranking number between one and 357 based on its “summative rating,” which is calculated by the state Department of Education. Summative ratings measure how a school’s “summative score,” another performance measure calculated by the Department of Education, compares to other schools with the same grade levels.

The ratings are calculated using a combination of standardized test scores, graduation rates, student academic growth and other factors. Each school is given a summative score from 0 to 100. Those summative scores are then put on a scale and used to give schools a summative rating based on how it compares to other schools.

High schools that did not report a summative score, or schools that had modified scores, were not included in NJ Advance Media’s rankings.

The state Department of Education has cautioned against using the summative ratings and scores as a way to directly rank schools.

“The summative ratings are not an assigned grade or ranking of the school but are meant to identify those schools with lower performance levels which might need support and improvement,” said Howard Seidman, a department spokesman.

“The ratings are based on academic achievement, growth, graduation rates, progress toward English language proficiency, and chronic absenteeism. The rating calculation factors in both overall school performance and student group performance, with a higher weight put on academic growth over academic achievement or proficiency,” he said.

Parents should keep in mind that any kind of a summative rating does not show the full picture of a school's success, said Jack Schneider, the director of the Center for Education Policy at University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Summative ratings measure things like test scores and graduation rates, both important metrics. But, when asked what matters to them in a school, parents usually cite a host of other factors, Schneider said, like a wide range of classes and a sense of community.

"We probably do want to know if students are progressing towards mastery of particular academic knowledge and skill, that's important," Schneider said. "But there's a whole lot that we don't have data on and unless we ask the question first, which is, what do we care about? You only, by asking that question, can figure out what we need."

The state Department of Education issued a similar caution.

"In understanding school performance, the entirety of the available data should be considered. Two schools with similar summative scores may perform markedly different across various accountability indicators. The summative rating on its own may not provide a full picture of school performance," Seidman said.

The New Jersey Education Association, the state's largest teachers union, has also criticized the ratings.

"It's helpful to look at data and learn what we can, but data alone can't capture what really matters the most in a school. The best feedback parents can get comes from talking with teachers and staying deeply involved in their child's school," NJEA spokesman Steven Baker said. "That will tell a parent far more about their neighborhood schools than any report generated by the Department of Education."

Editor's note: *High schools with grade levels below ninth grade are compared differently than schools with only grades 9-12, and are not included in the rankings.*

N.J. high school rankings, 2022-2023

New data released by the state Department of Education shows how New Jersey's public high schools stack up. NJ Advance Media used that data to rank the schools one through 357. Use the search bar to find your school or district.

Page 1 of 8 >

District	School	Rank	Summative Rating	Summative Score
Middlesex County Vocational and Technical School District	Woodbridge Academy Magnet School	1	100	97.63
Morris County Vocational School District	Academy for Mathematics, Science and Engineering	2	99.72	97.59
Monmouth County Vocational School District	High Technology High School	3	99.44	97.44
Middlesex County Vocational and Technical School District	Edison Academy Magnet School	4	99.17	97.19
Bergen County Vocational Technical School District	Bergen County Technical High School - Teterboro	5	98.89	96.55
Monmouth County Vocational School District	Biotechnology High School	6	98.61	96.31
Union County Vocational-Technical School District	Academy For Information Technology	7	98.33	95.89
Union County Vocational-Technical School District	Academy For Allied Health Sciences	8	98.0	95.72
Union County Vocational-Technical School District	Union County Magnet High School	9	97.78	95.58
Monmouth County Vocational School District	Communications High School	10	97.5	94.81
Bergen County Vocational Technical School District	Bergen County Academies	11	97.22	94.34
Passaic County Technical-Vocational School District	Diana C. Lobosco STEM Academy	12	96.94	94.0
Jersey City Public Schools	Dr Ronald McNair High School	13	96.67	93.67
Ocean County Vocational Technical School District	Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science	14	96.39	93.62
Monmouth County Vocational School District	Monmouth County Academy of Allied Health and Science	15	96.11	93.51
Union County Vocational-Technical School District	Union County Tech	16	95.83	93.18
Hunterdon County Vocational School District	Hunterdon County Academies	17	95.56	93.15
Morris County Vocational School District	Morris County School of Technology	18	95.28	93.11
Newark Public School District	Technology High School	19	95	92.53
Monmouth County Vocational School District	Marine Academy of Science and Technology	20	94.72	91.67

Bergen County Vocational Technical School District	Applied Technology High School	21	94.44	91.46
Union City School District	Jose Marti STEM Academy	22	94.17	91.44
Orange Board Of Education School District	STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges	23	93.89	90.78
Haddonfield School District	Haddonfield Memorial High School	24	93.61	90.44
Mountain Lakes Public School District	Mountain Lakes High School	25	93.33	89.78
Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School District	Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School	26	93.0	89.66
Livingston Board of Education School District	Livingston High School	27	92.78	88.38
Morris County Vocational School District	Academy for Performing Arts	28	92.5	88.0
Passaic County Technical-Vocational School District	Passaic County Technical Institute	29	92.22	87.61
Union County Vocational-Technical School District	Academy For Performing Arts	30	91.94	87.34
Hudson County Schools of Technology School District	High Tech High School	31	91.67	87.23
Tenafly Public School District	Tenafly High School	32	91.39	87.0
School District of the Chathams	Chatham High School	33	91.11	86.4
Somerset County Vocational and Technical School District	Somerset County Vocational Technical High School	34	90.83	86.26
Moorestown Township Public School District	Moorestown High School	35	90.56	84.75
Northern Valley Regional High School	Northern Valley Regional High School at	36	90.28	83.94