

THE GOVERNOR'S ACADEMY

School Profile 2026–2027

THE SCHOOL

The Governor's Academy inspires and engages inquisitive students in grades 9 through 12 from all over the world on an expansive campus just north of Boston in Byfield, MA.



Students have been learning and growing at Gova, the oldest boarding school in New England, for over 250 years. Here, they discover new passions. They find their voice. They achieve individual excellence. They work together to support and sustain our open, optimistic, and diverse learning community—and they go on to make a significant impact on the world.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Head of School

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STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

408
STUDENTS

116
STUDENTS IN
CLASS OF 2027

54%
BOYS

45%
GIRLS

0.25%
NONBINARY

64%
BOARDING

36%
DAY

20%
DOMESTIC
STUDENTS
OF COLOR

FROM
19
U.S. STATES

16%
INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS

FROM
19
COUNTRIES

ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

7:1
STUDENT-TO-
FACULTY RATIO

12
STUDENTS, AVERAGE
CLASS SIZE

Academic calendar is divided into **two 16-week semesters**.

Standard course load is **5.5** credits for ninth graders, **5.25** credits for sophomores, and **5** credits for juniors and seniors.

A graduation requirement for all students is to research and write a history thesis (**4,500+ words**) on a historical topic of their choice.

Our academic program is grounded in the **Seven Essential Skills**, ensuring that our students are prepared with the skills to be successful in college and as global citizens.

CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAM

Every student at the Academy chooses an afternoon program for three seasons each year.

There are more than 40 afternoon program opportunities, spanning interscholastic athletics, recreational sports, drama, dance, technical theater, robotics, and community service. Every ninth- and tenth-grade student must select two seasons of team activities, one of which must be an interscholastic sport.

SCHOOL CODE

221995

ACCREDITATION

The Governor's Academy is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

DISCIPLINE REPORTING POLICY

Governor's does not report disciplinary infractions. We expect our students to respond honestly to all discipline-related application questions.

COLLEGE MATRICULATION

List for the classes of 2024–2026

CURRICULUM

Department	Graduation Requirements	Most Advanced Coursework
Arts	Introduction to Fine Arts (ninth grade) plus one additional credit (one year-long course or two semester-long courses)	Advanced Drawing and Painting, AP Ceramics Clay and 3D, AP Photography
English	One course every semester	AP English Language and Composition, AP English Literature and Composition
History	Two years of history or social science, including U.S. History	AP Psychology, AP U.S. Government and Politics, AP U.S. History, AP World History
Languages	Three years (through level 3) of one language	Advanced Spanish Literature: Identity and Global Perspectives, Advanced Spanish Language: Language, Culture, and Ethical Inquiry, Honors French V, Latin IV AP, Latin V, AP Chinese Language and Culture
Mathematics	Three years, including Geometry and Algebra 2	Linear Algebra, Multivariable Calculus, AP Calculus BC, AP Calculus AB, AP Computer Science A, AP Computer Science Principles, Advanced Statistics (formerly AP Statistics)
Science	Three years, two of which must be year-long courses, including at least one biological science and one physical science	AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, AP Physics C, Honors Physics (formerly Advanced Physics)

*Please note that students must secure permission to take more than three AP courses within one academic year. Only five students in the class of 2027 received permission to take more than three AP courses in their junior year.

NEW COURSES
IN 2026—2027

Advanced Statistics (previously AP Statistics) introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students will be exposed to four main conceptual ideas: Exploring Data, Planning a Study, Anticipating Patterns, and Statistical Inference. Precalculus is a prerequisite or corequisite for this course.

Advanced Spanish Literature: Identity and Global Perspectives invites students to engage deeply with some of the most influential voices and texts from across the Spanish-speaking world. Serving as the culmination of a student's language study at Governor's, the course emphasizes close reading, analytical writing, and thoughtful discussion in Spanish, while exploring how literature reflects and shapes identity, culture, and society.

Geometry with Algebraic Foundations, a foundational high school course integrating algebra and geometry. Students will deepen their understanding of both disciplines by building strong connections between the two.

Atmospheric Firing Processes (previously Ceramics II) explores atmospheric and alternative firing techniques, including pit firing, soda firing, raku, and gas reduction. Students will work hands-on with each method, developing an understanding of how different firing environments impact surface, texture, and form.

GRADING AND
HONORS**Grading System**

The Academy does not rank its students nor does it calculate a cumulative GPA.

The highest year-end weighted GPA in the class of 2027 in the 2025–26 school year was 5.12. The second highest year-end weighted GPA in the class of 2027 in the 2025–26 school year was 4.78.

Academic Honors

3.30–3.64 GPA with no more than one C+

High Academic Honors

3.65 GPA with no grade below B-

Cum Laude Society

20% of the class is awarded this honor prior to graduation (10% are inducted in the fall of senior year and another 10% in the spring of senior year).

