



# U.S. News & World Report School Ranking: An Overview

North High School PTO Roundtable  
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# School Ranking 101

There are several ranking systems designed to determine the ranking of school across the nation---this is not a full list

U.S. News & World Report--6 components---NHS 503 in the nation---top 3%

Challenge Index has a ranking system (does not rely on test scores)---only AP/IB participation---NHS is ranked 425---top 2% in the nation

Niche has a ranking system---relies on test scores, enrollment, AP/IB data, disciplinary events, surveys NHS is ranked #87--top 1% in the nation

## 6 Components of U.S. News & World Report School Ranking

### 1. College Readiness 30%

The proportions of 12th graders who took and earned a qualifying score on at least one **AP or IB exam**. Earning a qualifying score is worth three times more than just taking.

### 2. State Assessment Proficiency 20%

Aggregated scores on state assessments that students may be required to pass for graduation.

### 3. State Assessment Performance 20%

How aggregated scores on state assessments compare with U.S. News' expectations given the proportions of students who are Black, Hispanic and from low-income households.

### 4. Underserved Student Performance 10%

Scores on state assessments aggregated just among students who are Black, Hispanic and from low-income households. These scores are compared with what is typical in the state for non-underserved students, with parity or higher being the goal.

### 5. College Curriculum Breadth 10%

The proportions of 12th graders who took and earned a qualifying score on **AP and IB exams** in multiple areas. More exams are valued more than fewer exams up to a maximum of four. Earning a qualifying score on an exam is worth three times more than taking.

### 6. Graduation Rate 10%

The proportion of entering ninth graders who graduated four academic years later.

# Data Collection

U.S. News & World Report relied on historic assessment data from the 2016-2020 ranking years while also incorporating for the first time state science assessment data from the 2018-2019 school year to capture a broader measure of student learning

Specifically, an average of the following years and academic subjects were used: 2016-2017 math and reading assessment data; 2017-2018 math and reading assessment data; and 2018-2019 math, reading and science assessment data

# Data Collection Concerns

It is not indicated what specific state assessments (math, science, reading) and data points they are using---mastery, participation, etc. the report is utilizing to determine rankings of school

Example: If they are using Algebra I---this will not be factored in for districts offering the course in Middle School

This system does not rank “the best” schools or measure quality---only what is considered to be the ‘most challenging’ as determined by AP/IB participation and passing rates

# School Ranking Concerns

Comparison by its definition is subjective, especially in educational systems and a ranking system cannot capture relative quality against thousands of schools

Who does the ranking system serve?

- College Board
- International Baccalaureate
- Cambridge
- Subscriptions to magazines, on-line services, advertisement, etc.
- Promotional & Proprietary Companies

# Changes in Ranking Year to Year

Small changes in college readiness factors and year-to-year changes in AP and IB test-taking and passage rates by the current graduating class can result in big moves for a school in the rankings

2018-2019 state science assessments that were included in the methodology for the first time as part of the 2022 Best High Schools rankings

When ranking approximately 17,840 public high schools, modest year-over-year changes in a school's overall performance across the six ranking factors cause movements in a school's overall score, which can result in a large change up or down in its overall numerical rank

# North High School Data

North High School posted a **30%** increase over the past 5 years in AP Exam administration. **978** in 2016 and **1273** in 2021 (correction from presentation)----**93% scored a 3 or better**

**71%** of NHS graduates have a enrolled in at least one AP course

North High School serves a higher needs population....**240 IEP** students and **80** Section 504 students. **25%** of our total student population receives testing accommodations

(119 students)---**10%** of our students are in self-contained classes

(64/266 students)---**24%** of our 2022 cohort graduates are IEP or 504 students

There is an increase in the number of special education students in the cohorts of 2023, 2024 & 2025 and this does not include private school and/or transfer students

We estimate 250 at the start of the 2022-23 school year and this number will increase 10-15% on average

# North High School Ranking

- North High School National Ranking went up from **648** in 2019 to **503** in 2022
- In New York North High School went from **61** in 2019 to **58** in 2022
- North High School STEM Ranking went up from **160** in 2019 to **119** in 2022

# North High School Data

We are consistently ranked in the top 2-3% of schools nationwide based on the data utilized

North High School is 1 of 19 schools out of 120 on Long Island and 17800 schools nationwide to be ranked in the top 1000

Data through test scores and AP participation is only one factor telling the story of our school

# What is NOT Factored?

Dual-enrollment/College courses

Fine & Performing Arts Programming, Science Research Scholars, Merit Scholars, etc.

Other data not collected for school rankings play an equal if not more important role in determining a student's success post high school:

Individual school experiences, connections with teachers, counseling, guidance, and mental health supports provided, peer relationships, ability to collaborate, team-building, your child's specific achievements and accomplishments in high school

Skill development in the areas of problem-solving, demonstrating empathy and kindness towards others, working independently, strong work ethic, academic and personal integrity, and self-confidence

# Final Thoughts

A change in ranking from one year to the next reflect is not indicative of an actual trend in the overall quality or performance of a school.

Students needs come first: We do not want to push students into courses that are not appropriate for them, for statistical gains.

We do not want to become a school whose behavior and decisions are influenced and shaped by a ranking system versus sound educational decisions.

There are always opportunities for growth----when identified, plans are to be thoughtful and be in the best interest of students.

Our mission has been and continues to be serving our students' educational, emotional, and social needs.

The greater concern for the next several year is the impact COVID had on our students' achievement---- identified through analysis of assessment data, addressing mental health issues, and ensuring their development of their academic stamina.