

THE RANKINGS

Best Schools 2014

OUR EXCLUSIVE RANKING
OF 65 AREA HIGH SCHOOLS.

SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO? THAT'S THE QUESTION nearly all parents ask themselves at some point during the 15-plus years that their kids attend school. Sometimes the grass just looks greener at the public school in the next town over. And sometimes, it actually *is* greener. To complicate matters, the region has no dearth of private schools vying for your attention (and money). Boasting stratospheric SAT scores and country club–like campuses, they promise to shape your unruly teen into a polished Ivy League–bound young adult.

To help you address these potentially life-changing choices, we chased down and analyzed a dizzying array of data—test scores, student-to-teacher ratios, graduation rates—to produce proprietary rankings of both public and private high schools. We also explored the classic *what if we moved* dilemma by breaking down the relative costs of relocating to a “best school” town versus staying put and going the private school route.

Does the town next door truly offer better opportunities? Check out our charts to find out.



To see our complete ranking of public high schools, go to bostonmagazine.com/schools. Our interactive tools can sort the data based on the categories most important to you.

DO NOT
WRITE IN
THIS SPACE

Methodology: We gathered the most recent available data at press time on public schools from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (doe.mass.edu). Private school information was provided by those schools. We also consulted town and school websites if necessary. Statistician George Recck, the director of the Math Resource Center at Babson College, calculated the mean scores for each category, and then ranked the schools based on a weighted average of each school data point's difference from the mean, using mean values when data was unavailable. Only public schools within the Greater Boston I-495 boundary were included. Additional research by Victoria Baena, Ariana Igneri, Megan Moore, Shina Neo, Katie Reilly, and Alex Stoller.

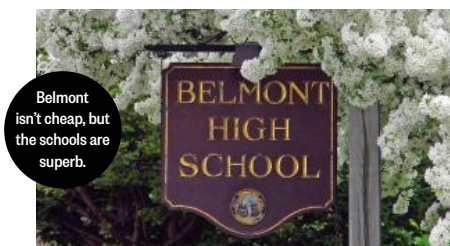
Best Public High Schools

- 1 DOVER-SHERBORN HIGH SCHOOL
- 2 LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
- 3 ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
- 4 ADVANCED MATH & SCIENCE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
- 5 NEWTON SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL
- 6 WELLESLEY HIGH SCHOOL
- 7 WAYLAND HIGH SCHOOL
- 8 SHARON HIGH SCHOOL
- 9 WESTFORD ACADEMY
- 10 WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL
- 11 MEDFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
- 12 WESTON HIGH SCHOOL
- 13 BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL
- 14 NEEDHAM HIGH SCHOOL
- 15 CONCORD-CARLISLE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
- 16 BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL
- 17 WESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
- 18 HINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL
- 19 LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
- 20 BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL
- 21 BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL
- 22 ANDOVER HIGH SCHOOL
- 23 DUXBURY HIGH SCHOOL
- 24 HOPKINTON HIGH SCHOOL
- 25 GEORGETOWN HIGH SCHOOL
- 26 NEWTON NORTH HIGH SCHOOL
- 27 MANCHESTER ESSEX REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
- 28 MASCONOMET REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
- 29 NORWELL HIGH SCHOOL
- 30 READING MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL
- 31 HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
- 32 HOLLISTON HIGH SCHOOL
- 33 ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
- 34 ASHLAND HIGH SCHOOL
- 35 NASHOBA REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
- 36 LYNNFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
- 37 MARBLEHEAD HIGH SCHOOL
- 38 NATICK HIGH SCHOOL
- 39 COHASSET HIGH SCHOOL
- 40 NEWBURYPORT HIGH SCHOOL
- 41 FOXBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL
- 42 MANSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
- 43 SCITUATE HIGH SCHOOL
- 44 MEDWAY HIGH SCHOOL
- 45 NORTH READING HIGH SCHOOL
- 46 NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL
- 47 PENTUCKET REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
- 48 PIONEER CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
- 49 ROCKPORT HIGH SCHOOL
- 50 FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL

Enrollment	Average Class Size	Student-to-Teacher Ratio	Per-Pupil Spending	Average MCAS Scores (Reading/Math/Science)			Average SAT Scores (Reading/Writing/Math)			Dollars Spent Per SAT Point	Percentage Scoring 3-5 on AP exams	College Counselors	Graduation Rate (%)	Percentage Going to College
647	13	11.5:1	\$16,434	100	99	99	608	617	618	\$8.92	98.6	4	98.1	91
2,014	19.3	12.6:1	\$16,726	99	97	96	626	623	656	\$8.78	92.4	10	97.4	85.3
1,989	19.7	16.1:1	\$13,697	99	98	97	613	616	649	\$7.29	97.9	10	97.9	90.9
969	19.4	11.5:1	N/A	100	100	98	595	590	640	N/A	95.5	5	98.6	91.9
1,759	16.1	12.4:1	\$16,400	99	96	89	606	615	636	\$8.83	94	13	98.1	84.5
1,381	14.6	12.3:1	\$15,085	100	98	82	605	606	611	\$8.28	92.8	8	98.6	86.4
856	15.6	12.2:1	\$15,902	99	95	89	587	592	617	\$8.85	90.9	6	99.1	89.4
1,199	16.3	12.9:1	\$14,527	99	97	93	589	590	610	\$8.12	93.8	6	97.1	88.7
1,675	19.8	13.9:1	\$11,449	99	97	96	589	577	601	\$6.48	93.1	8	98.6	92.7
1,156	16.7	14:1	\$11,954	99	96	95	579	585	609	\$6.74	85.7	6	98.9	86.6
908	18	13.9:1	\$11,830	98	96	93	577	579	605	\$6.72	87.7	5	99.2	92.4
786	18.6	10.4:1	\$19,915	99	97	83	603	610	622	\$10.85	78.8	5	96.6	89
1,118	18.3	16.8:1	\$12,259	99	97	94	586	581	602	\$6.93	93.2	5	98.4	87.5
1,545	18.2	15.1:1	\$13,742	99	97	92	585	580	595	\$7.81	96.3	8	97.8	88
1,224	18.1	13.5:1	\$20,525	99	95	96	598	592	617	\$11.36	97.7	9	98	87.2
2,332	24.9	20.2:1	\$17,283	100	100	100	626	611	632	\$9.25	80.5	7	98.6	90.6
909	15.6	13.7:1	\$14,197	98	96	93	570	565	592	\$8.22	91.1	5	98.2	87.7
1,130	15.6	14:1	\$11,415	100	95	94	553	560	569	\$6.79	92.5	6	96.7	87.9
1,590	19.9	13.5:1	\$17,340	98	93	81	589	594	620	\$9.62	93.5	8	98.7	86.6
1,819	14	12.6:1	\$16,626	98	93	87	591	590	609	\$9.29	94.3	14	93.5	82.1
915	13.7	12:1	\$16,600	100	94	87	567	565	579	\$9.70	95	6	95.7	86.1
1,794	16	15:1	\$13,836	99	98	88	564	567	588	\$8.05	80.7	8.5	96.6	91.2
1,037	19.1	13.5:1	\$11,825	99	97	94	551	557	574	\$7.03	81.5	6	98.8	88
1,124	17.5	14.5:1	\$12,472	98	95	93	558	555	575	\$7.39	81.6	6	99.2	89.5
410	13	11.9:1	\$10,511	99	91	93	540	534	550	\$6.47	97.4	2	96.9	89.2
1,948	16.6	12:1	\$16,400	97	92	88	573	579	602	\$9.35	91.8	15	95.4	82
477	15.5	12.1:1	\$13,479	98	96	96	554	553	570	\$8.04	87	3	93	85.8
1,345	16.3	17.2:1	\$13,094	98	98	95	553	550	570	\$7.83	80.3	8	98.7	91.9
615	14.5	12.8:1	\$12,074	99	94	91	532	541	546	\$7.46	75.9	4	98.9	90.7
1,281	16.8	14.3:1	\$11,051	98	94	90	548	543	562	\$6.69	81.6	6	96.6	92.6
697	18.1	12.6:1	\$14,759	99	95	94	556	554	553	\$8.87	69.1	4	95.3	86.9
828	15.9	12.3:1	\$12,198	97	91	90	535	534	556	\$7.51	92.8	4	96.2	88.5
1,226	15.4	17.1:1	\$12,603	98	92	89	577	576	573	\$7.30	83.2	6	92.9	86.6
725	14.7	15.1:1	\$12,183	99	95	88	530	520	569	\$7.53	84.6	4	94.9	90.5
1,010	16.4	14.6:1	\$12,686	95	92	87	555	546	579	\$7.55	89.2	6	95.1	88.9
626	15.9	12.5:1	\$12,215	99	92	93	513	516	553	\$7.72	87.7	3	99.4	85
989	14	13.2:1	\$12,998	96	92	88	548	552	553	\$7.86	86.4	4	96.7	88.7
1,511	18	14.7:1	\$13,146	98	93	91	550	537	557	\$8	86.9	7	95.3	88
765	18.1	13.1:1	\$13,524	100	95	81	547	544	567	\$8.16	94.4	2	95.6	90.5
729	16.7	12.2:1	\$13,622	97	94	87	536	535	551	\$8.40	83.1	4	95.2	90.4
849	13.4	12.9:1	\$13,635	95	88	90	543	540	556	\$8.32	86.7	5	97.2	80.9
1,396	15	14.6:1	\$11,166	98	93	85	529	521	552	\$6.97	79.9	7	93.8	86.9
927	16.6	15.1:1	\$12,311	99	96	86	533	545	547	\$7.58	74.7	3	93.4	89.5
805	16.1	15.5:1	\$11,775	97	94	83	527	526	546	\$7.36	72.5	3	98.2	89.4
723	20.4	12.3:1	\$12,498	98	91	91	547	546	577	\$7.48	56.2	3	92.4	87.3
1,236	14.7	16:1	\$10,139	97	92	94	531	516	538	\$6.40	88.6	5	95.2	82
774	15.5	13.5:1	\$11,821	97	88	83	548	536	554	\$7.22	70.4	5	92.7	83.9
353	17.9	11.2:1	\$14,178	100	95	98	514	509	566	\$8.92	50.4	1	95.7	82.4
301	14.1	11.5:1	\$15,484	99	95	87	528	514	526	\$9.88	69.6	2	90.4	85.5
1,611	19.7	13.9:1	\$11,108	98	93	90	534	539	557	\$6.81	83.2	7	84.7	84.8

Best Private High Schools

	Upper-School Enrollment	Grades Offered	Coed/Boys/Girls	Average Class Size	Student-to-Teacher Ratio	Tuition (Day)	Tuition (Boarding)	Average SAT (Reading/Writing/Math)			
1	THE ROXBURY LATIN SCHOOL	299	7-12	Boys	13	7:1	\$27,900	N/A	740	770	770
2	COMMONWEALTH SCHOOL	145	9-12	Coed	12	5:1	\$36,868	N/A	741	707	714
3	AUSTIN PREPARATORY SCHOOL	700	6-12	Coed	16	10:1	\$16,950	N/A	736	752	734
4	BOSTON UNIVERSITY ACADEMY	163	9-12	Coed	11	8:1	\$34,582	N/A	706	685	704
5	THE WINSOR SCHOOL	430	5-12	Girls	13	7:1	\$40,550	N/A	725	744	707
6	GROTON SCHOOL	372	8-12	Coed	11	5:1	\$43,390	\$55,700	695	702	695
7	MERIDIAN ACADEMY	65	6-12	Coed	10	5:1	\$23,900	N/A	680	670	650
8	MIDDLESEX SCHOOL	375	9-12	Coed	12	4:1	\$43,300	\$54,160	680	700	690
9	BUCKINGHAM BROWNE & NICHOLS SCHOOL	528	Pre-K-12	Coed	11.7	5.9:1	\$39,510	N/A	670	688	683
10	BELMONT HILL SCHOOL	442	7-12	Boys	11	6:1	\$39,600	\$46,600	654	682	685
11	GONGORD ACADEMY	378	9-12	Coed	12	6:1	\$42,200	\$52,200	680	679	683
12	PHILLIPS ACADEMY	1,129	9-12	Coed	13	5:1	\$36,700	\$47,200	688	690	701
13	WILLOW HILL SCHOOL	61	6-12	Coed	7	3:1	\$50,205	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
14	MILTON ACADEMY	695	K-12	Coed	14	5:1	\$40,550	\$49,400	680	700	687
15	FALMOUTH ACADEMY	123	7-12	Coed	12	5:1	\$25,975	N/A	657	658	611



Public vs. Private

It's almost time for your oldest to start school, so you're looking to put down roots. Should you move to the pricey town with the best public schools, or find a better deal on a home and spring for a private education? Here are seven town vs. town comparisons to help you decide. —*Kara Baskin*

Live here:
Bedford

Or live here:
Lexington

Send your kids here:
Middlesex School,
Concord

Ranking of public school:
2

Cost of private school:
\$43,300 (day)

Per-pupil spending:
\$16,726

Median property cost:
\$600,000

Median property cost:
\$815,000

Property tax rate:
\$15.71

Property tax rate:
\$15.51

Lexington's high school ranks second in the region, while Bedford has smaller lots but a far more reasonable price tag. Plus, it's just a 15-minute drive to the Middlesex campus.

Live here:
Watertown

Or live here:
Belmont

Send your kids here:
Buckingham Browne &
Nichols School, Cambridge

Ranking of public school:
13

Cost of private school:
\$39,510 (day)

Per-pupil spending:
\$12,259

Median property cost:
\$470,050

Median property cost:
\$783,000

Property tax rate:
\$14.96

Property tax rate:
\$13.50

Watertown real estate is a rare bargain in Greater Boston, with easy access to Cambridge and downtown. Belmont's not cheap, but many parents are willing to pay for its superb schools.

Live here:
Roslindale

Or live here:
Westwood

Send your kids here:
Milton Academy,
Milton

Ranking of public school:
17

Cost of private school:
\$40,550

Per-pupil spending:
\$14,197

Median property cost:
\$407,500

Median property cost:
\$590,000

Property tax rate:
\$12.58

Property tax rate:
\$15.40

Funky Roslindale is one of Boston's most affordable neighborhoods, with quick access to Milton. Westwood is known for its robust foreign-language program and National Merit Scholarship winners.

Live here:
West Roxbury

Or live here:
Newton

Send your kids here:
The Roxbury Latin School,
West Roxbury

Ranking of public schools:
5 (South);
26 (North)

Cost of private school:
\$27,900

Per-pupil spending:
\$16,400

Median property cost:
\$413,000

Median property cost:
\$884,500

Property tax rate:
\$12.58

Property tax rate:
\$12.12

Roxbury Latin has a strict need-blind admissions policy, and a healthy endowment keeps tuition relatively low. Meanwhile, both Newton North and South boast graduation rates above 95 percent.

Live here:
Maynard

Or live in this district:
Acton-Boxborough

Send your kids here:
Groton School, Groton

Ranking of public schools:
3

Cost of private school:
\$43,390 (day)

Per-pupil spending:
\$13,697

Median property cost:
\$319,500

Median property cost:
\$481,500 (Acton);
\$488,500 (Boxborough)

Property tax rate:
\$22.29

Property tax rate:
\$19.10 (Acton);
\$17.69 (Boxborough)

Powerhouse Acton-Boxborough ranks third on our public school list, and almost 98 percent of students score 3 or higher on AP exams. The setting is far quieter than in Maynard, but it's also pricier.

Alternative School Ranking

Head spinning? We asked artist Randall Munroe, author of the *XKCD* Web comic and the new book *What If?*, to weigh in with his own list. For more on his book, see page 89.

Tuition Cost Per SAT Point	AP Courses	College Counselors	Graduation Rate (%)	Percentage Going to College
\$12.24	12	2	100	100
\$17.05	20	4	100	100
\$7.63	16	3	100	99
\$16.51	N/A	2	100	100
\$18.64	11	2	100	100
\$20.74	8	3	100	100
\$11.95	N/A	1	100	100
\$20.92	23	2	100	100
\$19.36	14	4	100	100
\$19.59	14	4	100	100
\$20.67	N/A	4	N/A	100
\$17.65	14	10	N/A	N/A
N/A	1	1	100	100
\$19.62	20	4	N/A	100
\$13.49	N/A	2	100	100

Live here:	Or live in this district:
Natick	Dover-Sherborn
Send your kids here: The Rivers School, Weston	Ranking of public school: 1
Cost of private school: \$41,850	Per-pupil spending: \$16,434
Median property cost: \$445,000	Median property cost: \$829,000 (Dover); \$740,000 (Sherborn)
Property tax rate: \$14.18	Property tax rate: \$13.08 (Dover); \$19.72 (Sherborn)

Natick remains an oasis of affordability. Dover-Sherborn tops our rankings and has one of the highest per-pupil expenditures on our list.

Live here:	Or live here:
Walpole	Sharon
Send your kids here: Noble and Greenough School, Dedham	Ranking of public schools: 8
Cost of private school: \$42,600	Per-pupil spending: \$14,527
Median property cost: \$415,000	Median property cost: \$469,900
Property tax rate: \$15.76	Property tax rate: \$20.55

Walpole is one of the rare Boston suburbs with average housing prices in the low \$400s, and Noble and Greenough has a track record of sending kids to the Ivy League. Sharon's price tags are higher, but its public schools rank eighth.

