

The top 40 public schools that don't require the SHSAT test

Learning in at round at No. 1, Townsend Harris High School.

How we ranked them: The New York Post's Top 40 includes all schools that don't use the SHSAT test for enrollment. We also broke out Arts and Career schools as their own categories. The rankings are based on the latest available state and city data, using these factors:

- Four-year-graduation rate (weight: 10%)
- Percent of students scoring over 85 on Regents Integrated Algebra and Regents English Language Arts exams (20%)
- Number of students taking Advanced Placement exams (7.5%)
- Percent scoring a passing 3,4, or 5 on AP exams (22.5%)
- Number taking SAT exams (10%)
- Average total SAT scores (30%).

Adjustments made for schools that offer International Baccalaureate diplomas or college-level courses instead of AP; and those which assess students by portfolios instead of state Regents exams.

1. Townsend Harris High School

149 -11 Melbourne Ave., Queens

Admission: Grades 90 to 100, State exams: Levels 3 to 4.5, attendance

Enrollment: 1,151

Graduation rate: 100%

College ready: 100%

College enrollment: 99.6%

Taking SAT: 281

Average total SAT score: 1955

Taking AP tests: 773

AP pass rate: 82.8%

Not just for Queens, this highly sought-after Flushing school draws bright, motivated kids — last year 5,540 applied for 306 freshman seats — with its mission to foster a love of learning, and an appreciation of nature and the arts. Illustrious alumni include Jonas Salk, who developed the first polio vaccine. Curriculum instills a mastery in the humanities, with an emphasis on classics, as well as math and science. Kids get career and technical-education courses in robotics, bio-medical technology, law academy and new media. All classes are honors, AP or college level. Scholars conduct research at Queens College, NYU and Rockefeller University. The building has a DNA lab and TV studio. Students take at least three years of world language, including two of Greek or Latin. Music is popular. Students also take 12 tuition-free credits at Queens College, and use the campus gym, library and cafeteria. Last year, the Steel Hawks robotics team won an award at a world championship in St. Louis. Each year Project Spirit adopts a cause, such as collecting winter scarves for the homeless or sending care packages to soldiers. The school buzzes with academic teams, sports and 40 clubs.

2. Baccalaureate School For Global Education

34-12 36th Ave., Queens

Admission: Priority to continuing 8th graders, Grades 90-100, State exams 3 to 4.5

Enrollment: 308

Graduation rate: 98.4%

College ready: 98.4%

College enrollment: 98.1%

Taking SAT: 63

Average total SAT score: 1845

IB diploma: 72 percent of grads

The atmosphere is “ambitious but laid-back” in this small 7-12 Astoria school, where grads earn a prestigious International Baccalaureate degree. Juniors and seniors take IB exams similar to AP for college credits — in math, chemistry, biology, English lit, foreign language (French, Spanish or Chinese), and visual art. The program requires 100 hours of community service plus 150

hours of “creativity, action and service” in grades 11 to 12. For instance: work on the yearbook, volunteering in a summer arts program, taking part in a play, or singing in a chorus outside school. Students keep journals and do a yearlong project. One wrote a novel about two young people living through the Holocaust, another a memoir about a rare medical condition. One created a non-toxic nail polish. Seniors tackle topics such as feminism in Sylvia Plath’s poetry and Japanese war crimes in the Philippines. The school held its own art exhibit and auction last March. Last year, 15 students took a spring trip to Costa Rica to volunteer at a school and nursing home. The school is housed in a light-filled former pocketbook factory. Gym takes place in one of two nearby parks, a fitness room, and a yoga studio. Juniors and seniors can leave for lunch.

3. Eleanor Roosevelt High School

411 E. 76th St., Manhattan

Modal Trigger



Canstruction charity competition at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, No. 3

Admission: Grades 90-100, state exams 3 to 4.5

Enrollment: 531

Graduation rate: 100%

College ready: 99.2%

College enrollment: 88.5%

Taking SAT: 114

Average total SAT score: 1833

Taking AP tests: 259

AP pass rate: 86.8%

This wildly popular Upper East Side school — with only 125 coveted freshman seats — honors its namesake with community service, blending art, technology and good deeds. “ELRO’s” latest entry in the city’s “Canstruction” architecture competition, in which students built a giant sculpture with 4,000 cans of food collected for City Harvest, won the People’s Choice award. The

“Making a Difference Club” raised money for orphaned kids in Zimbabwe, and Skyped with them. Science and math are required all four years. Offers 11 AP classes and college English in a partnership with St. John’s University, plus a wide array of STEM and arts classes. In a program called ELRO Sibs, seniors advise 9th and 10th-graders. The Model UN team traveled to Budapest last year to take part in a parliamentary conference hosted by Yale University, and plans to attend an upcoming conference in Morocco. Newly added co-ed golf and girls’ cross-country bring the PSAL teams to 15.

4. Bard High School Early College

525 E. Houston St, Manhattan

Admission: Open to NYC; grades 85-100, attendance, math/writing test, interview

Enrollment: 560

Graduation rate: 99.3%

College ready: 99.3%

College enrollment: 92.7%

Taking SAT: 117

Average total SAT score: 1963

Taking AP tests: None

Motivated students from all boroughs get a head-start on college at this fast-paced Lower East Side school. They complete high-school requirements in two years, then earn an associate’s degree — free of charge — worth 60 credits from Bard College in the next two. Last year, Bard awarded 125 such degrees. Every fall starts with a writing workshop. A new computer science curriculum is modeled after a course at UC Berkeley. A new semester-long seminar explores key ideas and trends in mathematics. Last year, a day-long “teach-in” run by students focused on race in America. Students play sports in nearby Chelsea Piers.

5. New Explorations Into Science, Technology And Math

111 Columbia St., Manhattan

Admission: Entrance exam; priority to ongoing 8th graders

Enrollment: 610

Graduation rate: 94.7%

College ready: 92%

College enrollment: 89.1%

Taking SAT: 104

Average total SAT score: 1773

Taking AP tests: 345

AP pass rate: 74.1%

The city's only K-12 gifted school has "love and respect for knowledge" as its motto. Demand is great — last year 2,995 applied for 160 freshman seats. Parents must submit a request for testing in November. Students take AP classes starting in ninth grade, and accelerated programs in science and math. Ninth-grade math and science are single-gender classes. Electives include marine biology, Chinese history, Shakespeare, digital storytelling and ballroom dancing. Many opportunities for internships in the sciences and arts at local universities. Housed in sunny Lower East Side building with central courtyard. Many clubs and sports. Dress code.

6. Scholars' Academy

320 Beach 104th St., Queens

Admission: Priority to continuing 8th graders; grades 85-100, state exams 3 to 4.5

Enrollment: 464

Graduation rate: 100%

College ready: 99.1%

College enrollment: 97.9%

Taking SAT: 108

Average total SAT score: 1670

Taking AP tests: 145

AP pass rate: 73.7%

This lively 6-12 school on the Rockaway peninsula has a “small- town feel,” says Principal Brian O’Connell. Students complete most Regents requirements by the end of 10th grade, then choose among multiple AP courses, do internships, and earn up to 20 credits at St. Francis College. Technology is integral — students use iPads, Chromebook, and Macbook programs. Exceptional drama club, marching and concert bands, visual arts. “Educational trips, community service, college awareness trips, and spirit-generating events connect us tightly with one another and the communities around us,” O’Connell says.

7. Bard High School Early College Queens

30-20 Thomson Ave., Queens

Admission: Open to NYC, grades 85-100, attendance, math and writing test, interview

Enrollment: 600

Graduation rate: 98.5%

College ready: 98.5%

College enrollment: 85.7%

Taking SAT: 126

Average total SAT score: 1822

Taking AP tests: None

Like peers at its Manhattan sister school, grads leave with a high-school diploma and free associate’s degree. Small classes and challenging program in humanities and science. Seniors do science research with professors. Latin, Chinese or Spanish languages. Cheerful space, in office building shared with two other small high schools, has dance studios, art room, theater, exercise rooms. A variety of activities, sports and clubs.

8. Millennium High School

75 Broad St., Manhattan

Admission: Priority to students who live or attend school south of East Houston or West Houston Street, then all Manhattan; grades 90-100, state

exams 3 to 4.5, foreign- language grade, attendance, writing exercise

Enrollment: 619

Graduation rate: 98%

College ready: 95.9%

College enrollment: 88.2%

Taking SAT: 140

Average total SAT score: 1704

Taking AP tests: 131

AP pass rate: 81.9%

Skyrocketed in popularity, this competitive small school on the 11th to 13th floors of the International Telephone Building in the financial district offers a well-rounded curriculum. Everyone takes four years of English, history, math, and science, and can choose from seminar-style classes on topics like 20th-century social movements, poetry in exile, New York stories, race in America. No music class, but a School of Rock after-school program. Shakespeare, art therapy, cooking, yoga among extras. Sports played on local fields or YMCA.

9. Baruch College Campus High School

55 E.25th St., Manhattan

Admission: Priority to District 2 students or residents, then Manhattan; 85-100 grades, test scores, attendance, writing sample

Enrollment: 439

Graduation rate: 100.0%

College ready: 95.3%

College enrollment: 97.4%

Taking SAT: 107

Average total SAT score: 1617

Taking AP tests: 106

AP pass rate: 58.7%

Innovative Gramercy school offers a challenging interdisciplinary liberal-arts program. Students take four years of English, science, math and history, three of Spanish and two of writing and visual art. Students read literary classics

and current non-fiction. All classes honors. Students can also earn credits from Baruch College. Seniors defend a final project before a panel of judges. Holds an annual math confab. Exchange program with a school in Japan. Clubs and sports.

10. Beacon High School

522 W. 44th St., Manhattan

Admission: Grades 85-100, state exams 3 to 4.5, attendance, interview, portfolio

Enrollment: 1,276

Graduation rate: 98.0%

College ready: 81.3%

College enrollment: 84%

Taking SAT: 250

Average total SAT score: 1710

Taking AP tests: 175

AP pass rate: 67.4%

This highly sought-after Hell's Kitchen school boasts a brand-new \$88 million building with an open atrium, gleaming halls, sprawling art center with Apple laptops, a sun-flooded cafeteria and large gym. Offers a well-rounded liberal-arts education based on "shared exploration and problem-solving." One of two dozen schools statewide exempt from all but English Regents exams — students show achievement in portfolios. College classes at NYU, Fordham and CUNY. Clubs, sports, community service, and international travel. Last year 5,255 applied for 320 freshman seats.

11. Columbia Secondary School

425 W. 123rd St., Manhattan

Admission: Priority to continuing 8th graders, grades 90-100, test scores, attendance, interview

Enrollment: 377

Graduation rate: 97.8%

College ready: 84.8%
College enrollment: not available
Taking SAT: 90
Average total SAT score: 1642
Taking AP tests: 151
AP pass rate: 61.8%

All students study engineering and philosophy at this diverse and rigorous 6-12 school in Morningside Heights. Students explore topics like construction and urban design and computer programming, read Plato's "Republic" and write for the school's philosophy journal, "Contrariwise." Electives in environmental science, genetics, sci-fi film, web design. Juniors and seniors can take classes at Columbia University for free. Activities include biking, architecture, musical theater, organic gardening, student newspaper and underwater robotics. The bad news: only 15-20 seats available for incoming 9th-graders.

12. Leon M. Goldstein High School For The Sciences

1839 Shore Blvd., Brooklyn

Admission: Grades 85-100, state exams 2 to 4.5
Enrollment: 1,046
Graduation rate: 91.7%
College ready: 86.3%
College enrollment: 91.1%
Taking SAT: 225
Average total SAT score: 1679
Taking AP tests: 414
AP pass rate: 59.5%

One of Brooklyn's best, this supportive school on the park-like Kingsbridge Community College in Sheepshead Bay has a relaxed feel, but offers rigorous college-prep. All students study math and science every year in classes such as calculus and organic chemistry, plus three years of Spanish or Italian. Electives include forensic science, oceanography, and astronomy. The

building has modern science labs, a big gym, ceramics kiln, photo darkroom, library, a media room, and Mac computers on every floor.

13 N.Y.C. Lab School For Collaborative Studies

333 W. 17th St., Manhattan



Checking the math at N.Y.C. Lab School, No. 13. Photo: Insideschools

Admission: Priority to District 2 students or residents, then Manhattan.

Grades 85-100, Levels 2.25 to 4.5 on state exams, attendance.

Enrollment: 599

Graduation rate: 94.4%

College ready: 88.1%

College enrollment: 79.1%

Taking SAT: 107

Average total SAT score: 1712

Taking AP tests: 140

AP pass rate: 59.6%

This popular, non-traditional Chelsea school offers a new four-year sequence in computer science and, the Beauty and Joy of Advanced Computer Science. Students can also study music for four years, including band instruments, vocal, ethnomusicology, and theory. The Lab Theater Company will produce the musical comedy “Spelling Bee” this fall. A 10th-grade health curriculum covers social and emotional intelligence. Students engage in “Courageous Conversations” about topics such as race. Seniors do a yearlong interdisciplinary project. Various clubs and sports.

14. Manhattan /Hunter Science High School

122 Amsterdam Ave., Manhattan

Admission: Grades 80-100, state exams, attendance

Enrollment: 460

Graduation rate: 97.5%

College ready: 88.1%

College enrollment: 88.8%

Taking SAT: 118

Average total SAT score: 1564

Taking AP tests: None

Students at this rigorous small school near Lincoln Center spend three years on the top floor of the renovated MLK Jr. complex, and their fourth at Hunter College. They graduate with an average 12 college credits for classes that now include computer science and Spanish 202. All do research and community service. Principal Kevin Froner cites a new black-box theater, orchestra program, robotics team, and art exhibitions. Amazon is donating 500 Kindles.

15. High School For Dual Language And Asian Studies

350 Grand St., Manhattan

Admission: Grades 80-100, state exams 2 to 4.5, attendance

Enrollment: 410

Graduation rate: 93.2%

College ready: 86.4%
College enrollment: 82.8%
Taking SAT: 83
Average total SAT score: 1532
Taking AP tests: 140
AP pass rate: 78.1%

Mandarin Chinese-speaking students and English-speaking students learn to speak and write both languages while preparing for college and careers. Asian themes are woven into the academic curriculum — math, science, history, and the arts. Saturday ESL classes, peer tutoring, and SAT prep. Music, arts, and sports, including ping-pong and swimming.

16. Manhattan Village Academy

43 W. 22nd St., Manhattan

Admission: Grades 80-100, state exams 2 to 4.5, attendance
Enrollment: 414
Graduation rate: 99.1%
College ready: 80.7%
College enrollment: 85%
Taking SAT: 115
Average total SAT score: 1457
Taking AP tests: 106
AP pass rate: 43.8%

Kids get one-on-one attention in this small school housed in a renovated Chelsea office building. Prides itself on graduating more African-American males. Students take four years of lab-based science and compile elaborate portfolio aimed at landing in a top college. Sophomore and juniors go on college trips. Activities and clubs, basketball and softball.

17. Manhattan Center For Science And Mathematics

43 W. 22nd St., Manhattan

Admission: Grades 80-100 ,state exams 2 to 4.5, punctuality, school visit

Enrollment: 1,588

Graduation rate: 87.5%

College ready: 74.6%

College enrollment: 76.7%

Taking SAT: 351

Average total SAT score: 1499

Taking AP tests: 388

AP pass rate: 61.8%

Kids get close attention and learn disciplined thinking in this small school housed in a renovated Chelsea office building. Prides itself on graduating African-American males. Students take four years of science. They demonstrate mastery of subjects in portfolios of term papers, projects and presentations. Nine Regents exams required for graduation. Sophomores and juniors go on college trips. Activities, clubs, sports.

18. Midwood High School

2839 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn

Admission: Zoned;some selective programs limited to local residents, grades 85-100, state exams 3 to 4.5.

Enrollment: 3,877

Graduation rate: 86.1%

College ready: 73%

College enrollment: 74.4%

Taking SAT: 795

Average total SAT score: 1561

Taking AP tests: 827

AP pass rate: 66.5%

Popular, packed school with two highly competitive institutes in medical science and humanities. A third program serves zoned kids who choose from four courses of study: law, pre-engineering, performing arts, or

communications. Many APs. Strong on drama and music. Mock courtroom, robotics lab, TV studio. Tons of activities, sports and 50 clubs.

19. Brooklyn College Academy

350 Coney Island Ave., Brooklyn

Admission: Priority to Brooklyn students or residents; grades 85-100, state exams 3 to 4.5, attendance

Enrollment: 587

Graduation rate: 100%

College ready: 64.2%

College enrollment: 89.8%

Taking SAT: 133

Average total SAT score: 1492

Taking AP tests: None

Get a jump-start on college at this Windsor Terrace school. Instead of APs, students in 10th to 12th grades take credit-bearing classes at Brooklyn College: psychology, philosophy, sociology, theater, chemistry, calculus, Spanish, speech. Arts include band and stained glass. Bridges to Brooklyn program serves students of Caribbean origin. Boys' and girls' basketball are the only teams.

20. Francis Lewis High School

58-20 Utopia Parkway, Queens

Admission: Priority to Queens students or residents; for selective programs: grades 85-100, state exams 3 to 4.5, attendance

Enrollment: 4,058

Graduation rate: 79.2%

College ready: 65.2%

College enrollment: 74.1%

Taking SAT: 816

Average total SAT score: 1538

Taking AP tests: 819

AP pass rate: 65.5%

Overcrowded due to popularity, Queens kids cram into this Fresh Meadows school for a smorgasbord of academics and activities. Selective programs in math, science, humanities. Courses in law, health science, forensics, engineering, art, drama and music, 16 APs, 10 world languages, plus American Sign. Junior ROTC program. Broadway-style shows, concerts, 100-plus clubs, 30 team sports.

21. School Of The Future High School

127 E. 22nd St., Manhattan

Admission: Priority to continuing 8th graders, then District 2 students or residents, then Manhattan; grades 80-100, state exams 3 to 4.5, attendance, interview, portfolio

Enrollment: 420

Graduation rate: 91.1%

College ready: 67.8%

College enrollment: 78%

Taking SAT: 82

Average total SAT score: 1550

Taking AP tests: 34

AP pass rate: 56.3%

This nurturing 6-12 school in the Flatiron District puts creativity in college prep. Students take four years of math and science among basics, plus unusual courses like "Normal Is Weird," "Labels and the Making of the American Teenager," and "Yale for Beginners." Seniors orally defend their 15 to 20-page research papers with themes in history, politics and literature. Rooftop garden with greenhouse. Sports, clubs, travel abroad.

22. NYC iSchool

131 Avenue of the Americas, Manhattan

Modal Trigger



Learning biology at the iSchool, No. 22.

Admission: Grades 85-100, state exams 3 to 4.5, attendance

Enrollment: 433

Graduation rate: 94.9%

College ready: 70.4%

College enrollment: 77.8%

Taking SAT: 91

Average total SAT score: 1529

Taking AP tests: 95

AP pass rate: 50%

This tech-minded Soho school features project-based classes. Kids compose music, edit videos, and learn from architects. Every class takes a hands-on “module.” In “Call to Action: HIV,” students worked with a health clinic in East Harlem. APs and five world languages. In online classes, kids get instruction from “master teachers” worldwide via video and computer conferences.

Flexible schedules and open lunch. Several sports teams. Clubs based on student interests.

23. N.Y.C. Museum School

333 W. 17th St., Manhattan

Admission: Priority to District 2 students or residents; grades 80-100, state exams 2 to 4.5, attendance

Enrollment: 462

Graduation rate: 97.0%

College ready: 75.8%

College enrollment: 80.8%

Taking SAT: 95

Average total SAT score: 1495

Taking AP tests: 88

AP pass rate: 41.7%

Students study at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Japan Society, Museum of the Moving Image and others. Learning “modules” culminate with student presentations on topics like world religions, evolution, imperialism, geology, US history and culture. Three APs, three languages. Clubs include newspaper, drama, and Hudson sailing. Several sports and school dance team.

24. Benjamin N. Cardozo High School

57-00 223rd St., Queens

Admission: Queens students and residents only, priority to those who attend info session; screened programs: grades 85-100, state exams 3 to 4.5, arts auditions

Enrollment: 3,628

Graduation rate: 81.1%

College ready: 60.6%

College enrollment: 75.7%

Taking SAT: 770

Average total SAT score: 1595

Taking SAT tests: 672

AP pass rate: 63.9%

Crowded Bayside school draws top students with its strong Mentor Law and Humanities Institute and selective science and math program. Students take four years of science, math and language. College prep, 13 AP courses, intensive writing instruction. Award-winning science projects. Popular dance program. Active student life, interesting electives, experienced staff.

25. Bronx Center For Science And Mathematics

1363 Fulton Ave., Bronx

Admission: Priority to Bronx students or residents who attend an info session, then NYC residents who attend a session, then Bronx residents

Enrollment: 461

Graduation rate: 86.2%

College ready: 74.3%

College enrollment: 83.3%

Taking SAT: 90

Average total SAT score: 1462

Taking AP tests: 78

AP pass rate: 74.1%

One of the Bronx's top-performing, this Claremont Village school with a STEM concentration gets results with high expectations and a supportive staff. Students with a wide range of academic abilities eventually take classes at Lehman College; some do science research with mentors. Five APs, summer academies, clubs and sports.

26. Bedford Academy High School

1119 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn

Admission: Priority to District 13 students; grades 75-100, interview, math/writing assignment

Enrollment: 361
Graduation rate: 97.8%
College ready: 70.3%
College enrollment: 78.6%
Taking SAT: 83
Average total SAT score: 1408
Taking AP tests: 95
AP pass rate: 29.5%

Dedicated students head to Bedford's selective programs for technology and the health professions. Extended-day schedule and regular Saturday instruction keep kids on track. Drama, debate team; six AP classes.



Modal Trigger Students are Forest Hills, No. 27, perform "Hairspray" in 2014. Photo: Helayne Seidman
27. Forest Hills High School

67-01 110th St., Queens

Admission: Open to NYC; zoned for Queens; screened programs: grades 80-100, state tests 3 to 4.5, arts auditions

Enrollment: 3,800

Graduation rate: 80.9%

COLLEGE READY: 61.5%

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT: 71.8%

TAKING SAT: 731

AVERAGE TOTAL SAT SCORE: 1509

TAKING AP TESTS: 856

AP PASS RATE: 49.2%

Popular, packed school draws gifted Queens students to its math and science honors program. Kids must take Regents exams to attend prom or play team sports. Thousands seek 133 seats in the Law and Humanities Institute. Drama and music academies require audition. Sixteen AP courses, American Sign and six world languages. Loads of athletics, activities, clubs.

28. East-West School Of International Studies

46-21 Colden St., Queens

Admission: Priority to continuing 8th graders

Enrollment: 371

Graduation rate: 91.9%

College ready: 53.4%

College enrollment: 80.4%

Taking SAT: 79

Average total SAT score: 1431

Taking AP tests: 64

AP pass rate: 52.2%

Kids take up to four years of Chinese, Japanese, or Korean language at this 6-12 school in Flushing, plus anime, Korean drumming, martial arts, drama and dance. Four AP classes, and free college credit courses at Queens College and LaGuardia Community College. Some students study abroad for a semester or summer.

29. Academy Of American Studies

28-04 41st Ave., Queens

Admission: Priority to Queens; screened honors program: grades 85-100, state exams 3 to 4.5

Enrollment: 810

Graduation rate: 87.2%

College ready: 68.2%

College enrollment: 90.5%

Taking SAT: 134

Average total SAT scores: 1515

Taking AP tests: 216

AP pass rate: 45.4%

Focus on American history — everyone takes three years of it here — has students exploring historical sites within and beyond NYC. Kids do hands-on research on their family trees and at famous sites like Plymouth and Gettysburg. Nine APs and courses at LaGuardia Community College and St. John's University.

30. The Queens School of Inquiry

158-40 76th Rd., Queens

Admission: Priority to continuing 8th graders, then to Queens; grades (75-100) and state test scores (2 to 4.5)

Enrollment: 311

Graduation rate: 94.4%

College ready: 71.2%

College enrollment: 85.5%

Taking SAT: 66

Average total SAT score: 1518

Taking AP tests: 17

AP pass rate: 41.2%

Grade 6-12 school in Flushing delivers on its college-prep promise. Kids can collect 62 credits from dual-credit courses at Queens College, starting in 9th grade. Extended day program. Drama, robotics, Mathletes among the extracurriculars.

31. Riverdale /Kingsbridge Academy (Middle School / High School 141)

660 W. 237th St., Bronx

Admission: Priority to continuing 8th graders, then Bronx only

Enrollment: 668

Graduation rate: 78.5%

College ready: 33.6%

College enrollment: 61.1%

Taking SAT: 112

Average total SAT score: 1394

Taking AP tests: 147

AP pass rate: 52.2%

Neighborhood school for grades 6-12 with a supportive atmosphere. Strong arts program: instrumental or vocal music for all, dance studio, and ceramics kiln. French, Spanish, and 7 APs. Huge array of activities and clubs, including Minecraft and foreign film groups.

32. Central Park East High School

1573 Madison Ave., Manhattan

Admission: NYC residents; grades (80-100), attendance

Enrollment: 479

Graduation rate: 96.2%

College ready: 64.9%

College enrollment: 77%

Taking SAT: 138

Average total SAT score: 1355

Taking AP tests: 91

AP pass rate: 38 %

Well-rounded program's writing emphasis and lively extracurricular enrichment produces compassionate, culturally aware students. A full-time college adviser guides kids through the application process. Seminar classes, internships, five APs.

33. Young Women's Leadership School

105 East 106th St., Manhattan

Modal Trigger



Young Women's Leadership School (No. 33) students take a field trip to "Hamilton" and meet actor Leslie Odom, Jr. Photo: Tamara Beckwith

Admission: Girls only, priority to continuing 8th graders, then to District 4; grades 80-100

Enrollment: 300

Graduation rate: 95.4%

College ready: 61.5%

College enrollment: 97%
Taking SAT: 68
Average total SAT score: 1379
Taking AP tests: 48
AP pass rate: 42.1%

Girls-only school for grades 6-12, flagship campus for a successful network supporting “the whole girl.” College prep emphasis guides nearly all students to higher education. Four APs and Spanish. Research opportunities, internships with community partners.

34. Bayside High School

32-24 Corporal Kennedy St., Queens

Admission: Queens only; zoned; screened programs 80-100 grades, test scores, attendance; arts auditions

Enrollment: 3,241

Graduation rate: 87.9%

College ready: 62%

College enrollment: 79.1%

Taking SAT: 721

Average total SAT score: 1511

Taking AP tests: 763

AP pass rate: 41.7%

Top Queens students come for selective programs on environmental science and nonprofit management. Programs in musical performance and production, digital art, sports medicine, and computer programming. Thirteen APs, six languages. Dozens of sports teams, activities and clubs.

35. Academy Of Finance and Enterprise

30-20 Thomson Ave., Queens

Admission: Priority to Queens students who attend an information session, then NYC residents who attend session

Enrollment: 467
Graduation rate: 91.3%
College ready: 63.8%
College enrollment: 73.1%
Taking SAT: 106
Average total SAT score: 1415
Taking AP tests: 126
AP pass rate: 31.6%

Kids wear business attire daily at this Long Island City school with a focus on business/finance tech. CTE tracks in entrepreneurship and accounting; programs in banking, securities, financial services. Eight APs. Many mentoring, internship, job-shadowing choices.

36. Essex Street Academy

350 Grand St., Manhattan

Admission: Priority to those who attend an information session
Enrollment: 349
Graduation rate: 67.1%
College ready: 37.5%
College enrollment: 40%
Taking SAT: 54
Average total SAT score: 1199
Taking AP tests: 7
AP pass rate: 100%

Small Lower East Side school prioritizes emotional and academic support: average class size of 20, four social workers. Project-based learning allows for portfolio assessments in lieu of most Regents exams. Six languages, including American Sign.

37. Edward R. Murrow High School

1600 Avenue L, Brooklyn

Admission: Brooklyn only; programs native Chinese and Spanish speakers; arts auditions.

Enrollment: 4,021

Graduation rate: 76.9%

College ready: 47.2%

College enrollment: 67.3%

Taking SAT: 758

Average total SAT score: 1443

Taking AP tests: 503

AP pass rate: 58.5%

Big, diverse Midwood school has a television production studio, community vegetable garden, seven gyms, newly renovated planetarium. Strong, audition-based arts programs. Fifteen APs; five languages, including Russian. Many activities and clubs.

38. CSI High School For International Studies

100 Essex Dr., Staten Island

Admission: Priority to Districts 20, 21 and 31 students or residents who attend an information session

Enrollment: 527

Graduation rate: 89.6%

College ready: 54.5%

College enrollment: 88.3%

Taking SAT: 115

Average total SAT score: 1442

Taking AP tests: 75

AP pass rate: 32.3%

Mid-Island school with global theme requires foreign language — Mandarin, Japanese or Spanish — all four years. Many kids take international trips. Six APs, and classes at the College of Staten Island. Activities like Dragon Dance Team, chess, fencing.

39. High School For Environmental Studies

444 W 56th St., Manhattan

Admission: Open to NYC students; screened Honors program, grades 85-100, state exams 3 to 4.5

Enrollment: 1,312

Graduation rate: 82.0%

College ready: 48.8%

College enrollment: 69.5%

Taking SAT: 253

Average total SAT score: 1444

Taking AP tests: 282

AP pass rate: 54.9%

Conservation is the focus in this Midtown school with a molecular biology lab, rooftop garden, and beehive. Many partnerships, including the Sierra Club and Nature Conservancy, provide class trips and summer internships. Seniors do thesis. Twelve APs, three languages, arts, sports.

40. Benjamin Banneker Academy

71-77 Clinton Ave., Brooklyn

Admission: Priority to Districts 13, 14, 15 and 16, then to Brooklyn and NYC students; grades 80-100, state exams 3 to 4.5, interview

Enrollment: 907

Graduation rate: 90.7%

College ready: 53.3%

College enrollment: 78.6%

Taking SAT: 178

Average total SAT score: 1417

Taking AP tests: 90

AP pass rate: 56.3%

Clinton Hill school with an African-culture theme has screened programs in humanities, media communication, pre-engineering and pre-medicine. Six AP courses. Many activities and sports, including African drumming, Latino dance, literary guild, basketball, and fencing.