

How did schools rank on top list?

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U.S. News & World Report released its 2019 best high schools rankings this week, with seven local districts cracking the top 100 in New York.

The national and state rankings were revamped this year, with 17,245 U.S. public high schools compared based on factors that included college readiness, math and reading proficiency and graduation rates.

Out of New York's 1,290 high schools, 1,204 were ranked on 2019's list. Most charter and magnet schools are included in the list, while private schools were not included.

The ranking system is different enough that 2019's rankings should not be compared to previous years, according to the agency.

Here's what you should know about where your local high school fell on the list and how the rankings were calculated.

Which local high schools were top performers?

Pittsford Mendon High School was ranked highest among Rochester area districts, charting at No. 23 on the state list and No. 184 on the national list.

Local public schools that made the state's top 100 high schools (with national rankings included) include:

- Pittsford Mendon — No. 23 (No. 184 in nation)
- Pittsford Sutherland — No. 27 (No. 223 in nation)
- Honeoye Falls-Lima — No. 29 (No. 238 in nation)
- Brighton — No. 72 (No. 786 in nation)
- Victor — No. 75 (No. 813 in nation)
- Webster Thomas — No. 82 (No. 880 in nation)
- Penfield — No. 90 (No. 975 in nation)

Where did other local high schools fall in the state rankings?

- Fairport — No. 112
- Rush-Henrietta — No. 143
- Webster Schroeder — No. 188
- Irondequoit — No. 192

- Wheatland-Chili — No. 198
- Hilton — No. 250
- Kendall —No. 271
- Spencerport — No. 298
- Churchville-Chili — No. 311
- East Rochester — No. 341
- Eastridge — No. 384
- Greece Odyssey Academy — No.
467
- Brockport — No. 482
- Greece Athena — No. 486
- School of the Arts — No. 541
- Gates Chili — No. 577
- School Without Walls — No. 599
- Rochester Academy Charter - No.
681
- Greece Olympia - No. 634
- Greece Arcadia — No. 739
- School 58-World of Inquiry — No. 839 Among Nos. 904 to 1,204 are: East High School; Integrated Arts and Technology High School; James Monroe High School; Joseph C Wilson Magnet High School; Leadership Academy for Young Men; Northeast College Prep; Robert Brown School of Construction and Design; Rochester Early College International; and Vanguard Collegiate.

Three schools were unranked: University Preparatory Charter School for Young Men, Vertus Charter School and Young Women’s College Preparatory.

What is the methodology?

U.S. News & World Report changed its ranking system in 2019 to make the list more comprehensive and easier to understand, according to a news release.

The new numbers take six factors — including math and reading proficiency, graduation rates and college readiness — weights them, and produces an overall score for each school between zero and 100.

The score correlates to a school’s percentile — for example, a school with a score of 70 is in the 70th percentile and ranks higher than 70% of schools, said Robert Morse, chief data strategist at *U.S. News*, in a release.

Then the agency ranked each school against its peers in descending order. The ranking number is not the score — for example, Penfield High School was ranked No. 90 in New York state and No. 975 nationally, and its score was 94.35. Schools that landed in the bottom 25% on the national or state list were ranked with the ranking range of the entire bottom quartile from each respective list. For example, Vanguard Collegiate High School in Rochester ranked in the No. 904-1,204 range statewide.

Were all schools in the nation ranked?

No. While the new ranking system allowed a much larger group of schools to be included on the 2019 list — up to 17,245 from about 2,700 in 2018 — certain schools appear as “unranked” or don’t appear at all.

Possible reasons include schools without a 12th grade or fewer than 15 12th graders, or schools for which enough assessment data wasn’t available. Specialty schools, such as those with vocational orientations, were also not included.

Where did the school data come from?

■ The Common Core of Data from the U.S. Department of Education

■ Statewide math and reading level assessment tests and high school graduation rates, obtained from state education agencies and/or websites.

■ Advanced Placement exam data from The College Board.

■ International Baccalaureate exam data from International Baccalaureate.

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Assistant Principal Matt Comeau watches as students pass to their first-period class at Brighton High School, which U.S. News & World Report listed as one of the state’s top 100 high schools. TINA MACINTYRE-YEE/ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE