

GoLocal's Second Annual

# RI's Top High Schools

**GOLOCAL** *Prov*



## Public schools remain at the center of Rhode Island life,

from the capital city of Providence to the smallest towns on the shores of Narragansett Bay. And for families living, working, and paying taxes in

Rhode Island, the quality and performance of these schools are more important than ever. Which is why GoLocalProv.com has spent months researching and analyzing every public, charter, and technical high school in the state. The results for 2011 are in.

## The Top Schools: Patterns

What did we see, after hundreds of hours of research, fact-checking, and analysis? That here in the Ocean State, the top high schools reflect a diversity of geography, but, as might be expected, a correlation to municipalities with the resources to support high funding per student, low student-teacher ratios, and student preparation (and therefore success) in standardized testing in both NECAPs and SATs. The top high schools for 2011 are:

1. **East Greenwich High School**
2. **Narragansett High School**
3. **Exeter-West Greenwich High School**
4. **South Kingstown High School**
5. **Barrington High School**





## Changes from Last Year's Rankings

GoLocalProv.com released the 1st Annual ranking in May 2010. What are the major changes in the rankings since last year?

**Upward Mobility:** Several schools moved up in demonstrable

fashion from last year's ranking. Breaking into the Top 10 for 2011, Warwick's Toll Gate High School moved up 13 spots, from a ranking of 21st to 8th. In Lincoln, Davies Career and Technical High School moved up 11 spots, from a 25th ranking a year ago, with notable improvements across the board, particularly NECAP scores. The Met School moved up 8 spots from 40th to 32nd, and Beacon Charter High School for the Arts moved up 7 spots, from 41st to 34th, again with strong NECAP improvements.

**Downward Mobility:** Providence's Classical High School, with its historic legacy of great public education, maintained high scores across the chart, but dropped from 6th place in 2010 to 10th in 2011 largely because of improved performance by other schools. Woonsocket High School also dropped 6 slots, from 37th in 2010 to 43rd in 2011.







## How did GoLocalProv come up with its Top High Schools rankings?

Carefully. We gathered hundreds of pieces of data related to school quality: reading, math, and writing test scores (both the New England Common Assessment Program, or NECAP, scores,

as well as SATs), student-teacher ratios, spending per pupil, and graduation rates for 51 public, charter, and technical schools in the state.

What followed was precise statistical analysis, guided by a methodology used in similar rankings created elsewhere in New England. After collecting the relevant data, we calculated the average values in each of the categories and the degree to which each school either exceeded or failed to reach those averages.

Those deviations from the average were standardized so that different categories could be compared meaningfully, and then we used a weighting formula to give certain categories more importance than others. We wanted, for example, a school's student-teacher ratio to matter more in our ranking than its Math SAT scores – though test scores all together account for 60% of the weighting.

Each school's weighted numbers were added into a single evaluative number, which, when ordered from highest to lowest, gave us our ranking.



Ranking		At or Above Proficient READING 2010-11			At or Above Proficient MATH 2010-11			At or Above Proficient WRITING 2010-11			Student to Teacher Ratio 2009-10	Spending per Student (2008-2009, by district)	4-Year Graduation Rates (2010)	Average Verbal SAT Score (2010)	Average Math SAT Score (2010)	Average Writing SAT score (2010)
1	East Greenwich High School	92%	68%	80%	10.0	\$14,086	95.8%	591	602	597						
2	Narragansett High School	90%	56%	64%	8.0	\$17,982	90.1%	532	541	525						
3	Exeter-West Greenwich Senior High School	82%	67%	69%	9.0	\$16,778	89.9%	536	522	530						
4	South Kingstown High School	85%	59%	66%	9.0	\$16,082	85.8%	546	553	535						
5	Barrington High School	95%	73%	74%	12.0	\$12,379	95.6%	570	589	563						
6	Middletown High School	84%	57%	66%	10.0	\$14,890	82.7%	519	527	503						
7	Lincoln Senior High School	83%	49%	62%	10.0	\$15,238	81.9%	525	522	520						
8	Toll Gate High School	90%	38%	68%	10.0	\$15,939	83.2%	494	502	503						
9	Westerly High School	80%	41%	56%	9.0	\$16,222	87.7%	495	502	484						
10	Classical High School	98%	49%	74%	15.0	\$15,305	97.1%	527	528	515						
11	Scituate High School	93%	47%	62%	10.0	\$12,667	92.7%	526	530	517						
12	Portsmouth High School	91%	57%	61%	10.0	\$12,850	85.6%	518	530	518						
13	Mt. Hope High School	86%	39%	74%	11.0	\$17,202	82.8%	476	491	473						
14	Davies Career and Technical High School	86%	34%	47%	9.0	\$19,449	77.3%	450	472	437						
15	Smithfield Senior High School	88%	43%	62%	9.0	\$13,285	90.9%	498	500	491						

Ranking		At or Above Proficient			At or Above Proficient MATH 2010-11	At or Above Proficient WRITING 2010-11	Student to Teacher Ratio 2009-10	Spending per Student (2008-2009, by district)	4-Year Graduation Rates (2010)	Average Verbal SAT Score (2010)	Average Math SAT Score (2010)	Average Writing SAT score (2010)
		READING 2010-11										
16	North Smithfield High School	84%	39%	74%	9.0	\$12,060	83.4%	518	527	510		
17	Chariho Regional High School	86%	45%	41%	10.0	\$15,783	83.4%	502	514	500		
18	Ponaganset High School	90%	41%	53%	12.0	\$15,102	82.7%	529	517	520		
19	North Kingstown Senior High School	87%	48%	56%	13.0	\$13,700	86.1%	531	535	524		
20	Rogers High School	79%	20%	46%	9.0	\$18,732	80.1%	450	453	451		
21	Tiverton High School	85%	39%	64%	10.0	\$14,175	77.7%	490	490	486		
22	Pilgrim High School	86%	31%	53%	10.0	\$15,939	72.7%	480	484	475		
23	Coventry High School	88%	37%	61%	10.0	\$13,104	80.9%	489	492	482		
24	Cranston High School West	86%	34%	56%	12.0	\$13,261	87.2%	493	504	491		
25	Warwick Veterans Memorial High School	73%	25%	39%	10.0	\$15,939	72.7%	489	481	480		
26	North Providence High School	82%	21%	63%	11.0	\$14,212	79.6%	469	471	463		
27	West Warwick Senior High School	81%	30%	54%	11.0	\$15,711	66.2%	470	465	470		
28	Burrillville High School	78%	40%	52%	12.0	\$11,893	83.1%	509	516	494		
29	Johnston Senior High School	73%	32%	62%	10.0	\$15,860	61.8%	447	451	448		

Ranking		At or Above Proficient			At or Above Proficient MATH 2010-11	At or Above Proficient WRITING 2010-11	Student to Teacher Ratio 2009-10	Spending per Student (2008-2009, by district)	4-Year Graduation Rates (2010)	Average Verbal SAT Score (2010)	Average Math SAT Score (2010)	Average Writing SAT score (2010)
		READING 2010-11										
<b>30</b>	<b>Cumberland High School</b>	83%	36%	59%	13.0	\$11,090	83.2%	520	514	509		
<b>31</b>	<b>Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the Performing and Visual Arts</b>	93%	37%	63%	10.0	\$11,999	85.0%	441	451	449		
<b>32</b>	<b>The Met School</b>	66%	15%	29%	14.0	\$20,354	81.9%	440	440	N/A		
<b>33</b>	<b>Cranston High School East</b>	76%	21%	48%	11.0	\$13,261	80.6%	488	477	478		
<b>34</b>	<b>Beacon Charter High School for the Arts</b>	92%	48%	67%	12.0	\$12,782	60.3%	467	412	419		
<b>35</b>	<b>East Providence High School</b>	73%	26%	37%	12.0	\$13,991	73.5%	467	477	458		
<b>36</b>	<b>Times 2 Academy</b>	95%	38%	54%	15.0	\$12,345	93.9%	443	426	442		
<b>37</b>	<b>Textron Chamber of Commerce Academy</b>	81%	10%	52%	N/A	\$14,920	75.0%	366	370	364		
<b>38</b>	<b>Providence Career and Technical Academy</b>	50%	0%	17%	11.0	\$15,305	58.3%	N/A	N/A	N/A		
<b>39</b>	<b>E-Cubed Academy</b>	66%	4%	56%	12.0	\$15,305	61.4%	373	368	388		
<b>40</b>	<b>William E. Tolman Senior High School</b>	63%	16%	31%	11.0	\$11,999	56.7%	438	442	424		

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Hope Arts School	41	59%	4%	39%	12.0	\$15,305	70.1%	381	372	351
Blackstone Academy Charter School	42	74%	32%	50%	21.0	\$14,804	87.8%	415	414	407
Woonsocket High School	43	55%	15%	23%	14.0	\$12,362	63.7%	465	469	453
Providence Academy of International Studies	44	52%	0%	44%	13.0	\$15,305	68.9%	379	358	370
Central Falls Senior High School	45	44%	8%	23%	9.0	\$14,347	51.5%	390	374	383
Hope Information Technology High School	46	43%	4%	27%	12.0	\$15,305	70.9%	373	373	361
William B. Cooley, Sr. Health & Science Technology High School	47	54%	3%	39%	12.0	\$15,305	66.1%	342	338	337
Shea Senior High School	48	54%	16%	33%	13.0	\$11,999	57%	393	429	393
Central High School	49	44%	4%	33%	13.0	\$15,305	66.5%	344	359	341
Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School	50	34%	3%	19%	14.0	\$15,305	66.7%	351	344	348
Mount Pleasant High School	51	32%	2%	19%	13.0	\$15,305	56.6%	355	354	345