

Your Tuition Dollars at Work

What do costly private-school tuitions buy in the college-admission sweepstakes, and how do public schools compare? To find out, Weekend Journal studied this year’s freshman classes at 10 selective colleges—including seven Ivy League schools—and compiled a list of students’ high-school alma maters (see “Behind the Numbers” for details). The survey ranked schools based on the number of students they sent to these 10 colleges divided by the high school’s class size in 2003, limiting results to high schools that had a graduating class of 50 and sent at least 20 students to our chosen colleges. To find schools that delivered the most value, the survey looked at the ratio of tuition to success rate; the top 10 performers are noted with a ✓. Tuition-free public schools are denoted by a ●.

High School	Class Size	Total Students Sent	Success Rate	Tuition (\$)	Bang for the Buck	Comments
Saint Ann’s School Brooklyn, N.Y.	74	30	41%	20,500	✓	The highest success rate on our list. School has no grades; students get written evaluations.
Winsor School Boston	57	22	39%	23,800	✓	Girls’ school says two-thirds of grads attend highly selective colleges.
Trinity School New York City	120	44	37%	23,475	✓	Additional fees—for lunch, parents’ association dues, etc.—run about \$1,250 per year.
Horace Mann School Riverdale, N.Y.	175	61	35%	24,500	✓	Upper Division Head Dr. Lawrence Weiss has just been named the new head-master at Saint Ann’s.
Phillips Academy Andover, Mass.	300	91	30%	23,400		Both President George W. Bush and his father are alums.
Deerfield Academy Deerfield, Mass.	199	60	30%	23,005		Tuition is all-inclusive; boarding students pay \$29,960 per year.
Nat’l Cathedral School Washington, D.C.	73	22	30%	21,850	✓	Seven 2003 grads from this girls’ school are freshmen at the University of Pennsylvania this year.
Dalton School New York City	103	31	30%	24,680		Tuition is all-inclusive; only additional fee is \$75 for parents’ association dues.
Hunter College High School , New York City	186	53	28%	0	●	A typical course: “Physics and (Post)Modern Culture.”
St. Paul’s School* Concord, N.H.	144	41	28%	31,125		Prospective Democratic nominee John Kerry graduated in 1962.
St. Albans School Washington, D.C.	81	22	27%	21,837		Tuition includes lunch, but extra fees for certain classes such as science labs, computer science or art and photography can run \$75-165 per class.
Germantown Friends School , Philadelphia	88	23	26%	16,675	✓	Seniors can pay an additional \$675 in fees (mostly for books).
Episcopal Academy Merion and Devon, Pa.	104	27	26%	18,800	✓	Founded in 1785 by Pennsylvania’s first Episcopal bishop, the school has two chapels.
Lakeside School Seattle	111	28	25%	18,400	✓	Students (after this year’s senior class) are required to have a laptop, which they can purchase from the school for about \$2,200.
Sidwell Friends School Washington, D.C.	116	29	25%	20,975		This Quaker day school has a 14-acre campus in the Tenleytown section of Washington and attracts political elite. Chelsea Clinton went here.
Phillips Exeter Academy Exeter, N.H.	322	79	25%	22,800		Boarding students pay \$30,000.
Hopkins School New Haven, Conn.	123	29	24%	21,550		Fifty-one percent of its senior class this year are National Merit Scholars.
Pingry School Martinsville, N.J.	132	32	24%	22,290		Eight members of the class of 2003 went to Cornell; seven went to the University of Pennsylvania.
Milton Academy Milton, Mass.	170	41	24%	24,325		T.S. Eliot graduated from this boarding school in 1906.
Choate Rosemary Hall Wallingford, Conn.	224	53	24%	22,940		School says it gives away \$5.3 million in financial aid each year.
Univ. of Chicago Lab. Schools , Chicago	112	26	23%	16,125	✓	Sophomores, juniors and seniors have access to all University of Chicago libraries.
Hotchkiss School Lakeville, Conn.	148	34	23%	25,450		Students pay \$350 technology fee. School is building a new music and arts center—and plans an arboretum.
Noble and Greenough School , Dedham, Mass.	102	23	23%	24,150		This boarding and day school has a 187-acre campus and an average class size of 11.
Harvard-Westlake School , N. Hollywood, Calif.	268	60	22%	20,000		Highest number of National Merit Semifinalists in the state for the past 17 years.
Delbarton School Morristown, N.J.	118	26	22%	19,600		All-boys school is run by Benedictine monks, on a campus of almost 400 acres.
Durham Academy Durham, N.C.	97	21	22%	14,600	✓	Seniors pay a \$650 activity fee covering items such as class trips, phys-ed T-shirts and commencement expenses.
Head-Royce School Oakland, Calif.	94	20	21%	20,360		\$320 activity fee. Five members of the class of 2003 went to Brown; five went to the University of Pennsylvania.
Lawrenceville School Lawrenceville, N.J.	221	47	21%	24,610		Seminar-like approach here has students sitting with faculty at oval table instead of sitting in rows in most classes.
Buckingham Browne & Nichols , Cambridge, Mass.	113	24	21%	24,600		School’s annual giving campaign has tripled in past decade, to \$1.7 million. Students have free admission to Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.
Georgetown Day School Washington, D.C.	110	23	21%	21,472		Sent four grads each to Harvard, Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania this year, all from the class of 2003.
Fieldston Bronx, N.Y.	127	25	20%	23,900		Founded in 1878. Its early name was the Workingman’s School, providing education to children of the “working poor.”
T. Jefferson H.S. for Sci. and Tech. , Alexandria, Va.	401	74	18%	0	●	This public magnet school has 12 labs for everything from robotics to astronomy. It’s also state champion in girls’ swimming and diving.
Taft School Watertown, Conn.	154	27	18%	22,500		Ten students from this boarding school’s class of 2003 went to Cornell.
Ransom Everglades School , Coconut Grove, Fla.	138	24	17%	18,000		The alma mater of humor columnist Dave Barry, it’s celebrating its 100th birthday this year.
Stuyvesant High School New York City	719	119	17%	0	●	This magnet school sent the highest number of students to our 10 colleges, including 21 to Harvard.
Ithaca High School Ithaca, N.Y.	336	52	15%	0	●	Forty-four members of the class of 2003 are freshmen at Cornell this year—many of them children of the college’s faculty.
Scarsdale High School Scarsdale, N.Y.	278	41	15%	0	●	Guidance department has nine counselors, meaning more one-on-one attention for kids.
Roslyn High School Roslyn Heights, N.Y.	204	30	15%	0	●	School says Howard Dean’s wife, Judith Steinberg Dean, went here.
Horace Greeley High School , Chappaqua, N.Y.	279	41	15%	0	●	Class of 2003 sent eight students each to Cornell and Yale; seven each to Duke and the University of Pennsylvania.
Westminster Schools Atlanta	175	25	14%	14,392		School’s \$75 million capital campaign helped build a new science facility, 400-seat theater and athletic facilities.
Pine Crest School Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	183	24	13%	15,350		Tuition includes books and lunch.
Millburn High School Millburn, N.J.	245	32	13%	0	●	School says Cornell has been recruiting more heavily here in past two years. Currently, 10 Millburn students are freshmen there.
Illinois Math and Sci. Academy , Aurora, Ill.	189	20	11%	0	●	The students at this boarding school run math, science and technology summer camps for elementary kids.
Boston Latin School Boston	337	32	9%	0	●	Former terrorism czar Richard A. Clarke is an alum.
Princeton High School Princeton, N.J.	260	24	9%	0	●	Location works: Twelve 2003 grads started at Princeton this year.
N.C. School of Science and Math , Durham, N.C.	257	23	9%	0	●	For the last two years, school has sent the most semifinalists in the country to Siemens Westinghouse Competition for science, math and technology.
Great Neck South High School , Great Neck, N.Y.	268	23	9%	0	●	This public school has its own observatory, plus every year it mounts a full-scale opera, with all music performed by students.
Walt Whitman High School , Bethesda, Md.	467	40	9%	0	●	Current senior class has 18 National Merit Finalists.
Bronx High School of Science , Bronx, N.Y.	604	47	8%	0	●	Our survey found 19 kids from this school at Cornell, and nine at Dartmouth.
Staples High School Westport, Conn.	271	20	7%	0	●	Five 2003 graduates are at Cornell this year; three more are at Yale.
Paul D. Schreiber High School , Port Washington, N.Y.	290	21	7%	0	●	Sent five kids to Yale from class of 2003.
Punahou School Honolulu	421	30	7%	12,050		School was founded in 1841 by missionaries; has just expanded its center for community service.
Northfield Mt. Hermon School , Northfield, Mass.	318	22	7%	22,600		Dore Gold, adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, and the late pro-Palestinian intellectual Edward Said both went here.
Richard Montgomery High School , Rockville, Md.	363	25	7%	0	●	School has International Baccalaureate program. Students have average combined SATs of 1435
Palo Alto High School Palo Alto, Calif.	313	21	7%	0	●	Located in Silicon Valley, this school has an award-winning robotics team.
Lower Merion High School , Ardmore, Pa.	348	23	7%	0	●	Former students include Kobe Bryant, who led the school to a state basketball championship.
Lexington High School Lexington, Mass.	396	26	7%	0	●	Some students prepare for school’s competitive science fair by studying with MIT or Harvard scientists.
Newton South High School , Newton Centre, Mass.	360	23	6%	0	●	School places students in internships in fields such as fashion design and antique-car restoration.
Shaker Heights High School , Shaker Heights, Ohio	356	22	6%	0	●	Takes part in a program to send students to Japan to study history, culture and religion.
Ridgewood High School Ridgewood, N.J.	345	20	6%	0	●	Four 2003 grads matriculated at Harvard this fall; four started at Yale.
Winston Churchill High School , Potomac, Md.	451	26	6%	0	●	Offers special program to let students focus on either math and science or creative arts.
Greenwich High School Greenwich, Conn.	569	28	5%	0	●	Sent six members of class of 2003 to Brown, along with five to Penn.
Newton North High School , Newtonville, Mass.	561	25	4%	0	●	Facilities include two theaters. Six hundred students participate in theater program, with ticket sales helping to defray the cost.
New Trier Township High School , Winnetka, Ill.	887	31	3%	0	●	Theater program includes two theaters and has produced stars such as Ann-Margret, Charlton Heston and Rock Hudson.
Evanston Township High School , Evanston, Ill.	780	21	3%	0	●	School has one-year international education requirement for graduation and offers classes in Japanese, Hebrew, Latin, Spanish, French and German.

*Tuition for boarding students. In all other cases, day-school tuition is listed.