



Highlands County High Schools  
(see page 2 for sources and explanations of data components)

	2023-2024 U.S. News and World Report of Best High schools						FL Dept. of Education School			
	National Rank	State Rank	% Reading Proficiency	% Math Proficiency	% College Graduation Rates	Ready Index	2024	2023	2022	2021
<b>County Average</b>	n/a	n/a	40	35	n/a	n/a				
Avon Park High School	5,678	298	37	38	86	35	C	C	C	
Highlands Virtual School	13,242-17,655	537-647	42	28	53	14	C	C	C	
Lake Placid High School	9,505	436	33	31	84	29	C	C	C	
Sebring High School	5,951	312	49	43	89	24	C	C	C	
<b>Top High Schools as of 2023-2024 Florida</b>										
Pine View School, Osprey	18	1	99	100	100	100	A	A	A	
Millennium 6-12 Colleigiate Academy	41	2	89	80	100	98	A	A	A	
Westshore JR/Sr High School	43	3	98	96	100	95				
							<b>FL Dept. of Education County</b>			
							<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
							83	84	83	80

**NOTE:** blank cells indicate data not available or (in the case of rankings) indicate that the school was not qualified to be ranked by U.S. News and World Report. For example, schools below the 25th percentile have their scores concealed by US News & World Report who simply report the entire bottom quartile's ranking range. We elected not to show that range here because it's not specific enough to be meaningful in our data. Schools without a grade 12 or with very small enrollment are simply displayed as Unranked by US News & World Report and not shown here. **NOTE:** high schools that did not provide data for this report are not listed here.



**Explanations of County High School Data Components**

U.S. News and World Report Data	
Ranking Algorithm & Criteria for a School to Be Ranked	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/usn-algorithm">http://tinyurl.com/usn-algorithm</a>
Nationally-Ranked Schools	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/usn-national-ranking">http://tinyurl.com/usn-national-ranking</a>
Florida Ranked Schools	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/usn-florida-ranking">http://tinyurl.com/usn-florida-ranking</a>
Reading Proficiency	Assessment of students' ability to read at grade level.
Math Proficiency	Assessment of students' ability to perform math at grade level.
College Readiness Index	Index representing the proportion of a school's 12th graders that took and passed AP/IB exams.
County Average	Average scores for the Florida schools listed
Graduation Rate	The proportion of entering ninth graders who graduated four academic years later
FL Dept. of Education County Graduation Rates (%)	Florida High School Graduation Rates, 2020-21 (fldoe.org)
Top High Schools - Florida	Shows a sampling of highly-ranked Florida Schools
FL Dept. of Education School Grades	<a href="http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/accountability-reporting/school-grades/">http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/accountability-reporting/school-grades/</a>
School and County Letter Grades as calculated by the Florida DOE	<a href="http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/accountability-reporting/school-grades/">http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/accountability-reporting/school-grades/</a>
School and County Letter Grades as calculated by the Florida DOE	(see "School Grades" Excel file for individual school grades)
Comparing Ranking Data (proficiencies & college-ready index) with Florida DOE school grades	(see "District Grades" Excel file for county grades)

The main purpose for sharing this data is to point out the obvious disconnect when you compare nationally-normed high school ranking data (reading proficiency, math proficiency and college-ready index) with the Florida DOE "report card" grades which are calculated using a FL DOE proprietary formula. This proprietary grading formula was created by and can be manipulated by the FL DOE. By grading on the low "curve", the school grades can be made to look much better than is actually the case. So don't take it at face value when your school claims to be an "A" school (for example). Look at the U.S. News and World Report data and see if it supports the claim. We need visibility into the TRUE academic performance of Florida schools. Moving away from the highly manipulated FL DOE proprietary grading system is a MUST if we're to effectively judge the efficiency of Florida Schools.