



Polk 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
County Average	n/a	n/a	41	32	n/a	n/a				
Auburndale Senior High School	12,833	524	33	26	83	15	D	C	C	C
Bartow Senior High School	6,165	320	47	33	91	24	C	C	C	
Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School	4,108	229		83	100	25		A	A	
Discovery High School	8,740	406	50	36	93	11	C	C	C	C
Fort Meade Middle/Senior High School	9,831	443	43	42	90	13	B	C	C	C
Frostproof Middle/Senior High School	10,141	456	41	33	84	19	C	C	C	
George W. Jenkins Senior High School	5,467	290	52	41	94	25	B	C	B	
Haines City Senior High School	13,242-17,656	537-648	32	20	73	18	C	C	C	C
Kathleen Senior High School	13,242-17,657	537-649	30	18	75	14	D	C	C	
Lake Gibson Senior High School	10,599	469	38	26	87	20	C	C	C	C
Lakeland Senior High School	3,827	217	53	34	89	36	B	C	B	
Lake Region High School	13,242-17,657	537-649	25	14	79	17	C	D	D	
Lake Wales Senior High School	5,508	292	48	44	82	23	B	C	C	
McKeel Academy of Technology	1,584	105	75	70	100	37	A	A	A	
Mulberry Senior High School	11,445	490	36	24	89	16	C	C	C	C
New Beginnings High School	13,242-17,657	537-649	11	4	14					
Polk Full Time Eschool	13,242-17,657	537-649	57	31	77		C	C	C	
Polk State Lakeland Gateway To College Charter High	12,173	507		36	95	9	B			
Ridge Community High School	12,048	502	37	21	80	17	C	C	C	
Tenoroc High School	13,242-17,657	537-649	23	16	67	16	C	C	C	
Winter Haven Senior High School	11,161	483	41	29	88	13	C	C	C	
Top High Schools as of 2023-2024 Florida										
Pine View School	18	1	99	100	100	100	A	A	A	
Millennium 6-12 Collegiate Academy	41	2	89	80	100	98	A	A	A	
Westshore Junior/Senior High School	43	3	98	96	100	95	A	A	A	

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.

FL Dept. of Education County			
2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
87	85	78	78



Explanations of County High School Data Components

U.S. News and World Report Data	
Ranking Algorithm & Criteria for a School to Be Ranked	http://tinyurl.com/usn-algorithm
Nationally-Ranked Schools	http://tinyurl.com/usn-national-ranking
Florida Ranked Schools	http://tinyurl.com/usn-florida-ranking
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	http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/accountability-reporting/school-grades/
School and County Letter Grades as calculated by the Florida DOE	http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/accountability-reporting/school-grades/
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.