



***U.S. News & World Report* Updates America's Best High Schools Revised rankings include 43 new and upgraded schools**

WASHINGTON, DC— May 16, 2008—*U.S. News & World Report*, one of the nation's leading sources of news analysis and service journalism, today released its updated list of America's Best High Schools, available at <http://www.usnews.com/highschools>. With new data from schools in multiple states, *U.S. News* followed the in-depth methodology from America's Best High Schools (November 2007) and as a result has included 43 additional schools, with rankings for the first time in Alabama (31) and new schools in Connecticut, Maine, and New York. The updated rankings also include high schools whose statuses have been upgraded since the original publication.

To date, America's Best High Schools includes almost 1,600 high schools in 41 states that met key criteria fall into three categories of distinction: gold, silver, and bronze, with Thomas Jefferson High School in Alexandria, VA, topping the list.

The methodology for Best High Schools was developed by School Evaluation Services in collaboration with Andrew Rotherham, co-founder of Education Sector and writer of Eduwonk.com. According to the methodology, a best high school is one that succeeds at the following:

- 1) Attains **performance levels** that **exceed statistical expectations** given the school's relative level of student poverty, as measured by state accountability test scores **for all the school's students** in the core subjects of reading and math;
- 2) Achieves **proficiency rates** on state tests for their **least advantaged student groups** (e.g., black, Hispanic, and economically disadvantaged students) that **exceed state averages**; and
- 3) Prepares its students for college, as measured by student **participation in and performance on Advanced Placement (AP) tests**, which are administered by the College Board.

For a complete list of America's Best High Schools, visit www.usnews.com/highschools. To learn more about a specific school or to compare schools side-by-side, visit www.schoolmatters.com.

* **Note:** The following nine states and the District of Columbia did not have sufficient data available for analysis: AK, MS, MT, NE, ND, OK, SD, UT, and WY.

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About *U.S. News & World Report*

Founded in 1933, the weekly national news magazine *U.S. News & World Report* is devoted to investigative journalism and reporting, and to analyzing national and international affairs, politics, business, health, science, technology and social trends. Through its annual rankings of America's Best Colleges, America's Best Graduate Schools, America's Best Hospitals, America's Best Health Plans and its News You Can Use® brand, *U.S. News* has earned a reputation as the leading provider of service news and information that improves the quality of life of its readers. Available online at www.usnews.com, the *U.S. News* website extends that brand promise and delivers the best, most accurate information on the Web, organized in a way that is accessible and easy to use.

About School Evaluation Services

Since 2001, School Evaluation Services has served as an independent, analytical resource for parents of school-aged children, state and national policymakers, and educators. Today, it provides parents with the largest easily searchable collection of education data ever assembled on www.schoolmatters.com.

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