

2026 PROPRIETARY DATA • SCHOOL SELECTION GUIDE

Top 100 U.S. Boarding Schools

College Placement White Paper

ALL TOP 25 SCHOOLS • FS 26-100 HIDDEN GEMS • VERIFIED SCHOOL BY SCHOOL

"We didn't rely on any of the 'Ivy placement rankings' circulating online. Our data team recalculated every school's numbers from its official college matriculation records, page by page. If you can see the source, you can trust the number."

48 schoolsAll Top 25 + 23 hidden gems
ranked FS 26-100**4** metricsMatriculation rates on one
consistent basis**100%**Every figure traceable to an
official school source

— WHY WE BUILT THIS

An Ivy placement rate isn't the **answer**. It's where the search **begins**.

Every admissions season, the first question parents ask is, "What's this school's Ivy rate?" But the boarding school "Ivy rankings" found online use inconsistent methods: some count acceptances, others count enrollments, and the same school's figure can double from one list to the next.

*So we started over. We went through the **officially published** college lists of every Top 25 school, recalculated four matriculation rates on one consistent basis, and flagged every point of uncertainty.*

WHAT THE DATA SHOWS

KEY FINDINGS

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL • FS #6

21.4%

The highest published Ivy League rate among the Top 25

Higher than all five schools ranked above it. Overall rank and Ivy League placement measure two different things.

ANDOVER • FS #1

44.4%

Nearly half of graduates enroll at a Top 30 university

Choate (44.3%), Groton (43.1%) and Lawrenceville (41.3%) follow close behind. All four leading schools are above 40%.

BLAIR ACADEMY • FS #25

11.9%

Ranked #25, yet ahead of several Top 15 schools in Ivy League placement

Higher than Middlesex (8.8%), Cate (10.3%) and Webb (6.3%). St. Andrew's (#16) reaches 18.1%, on par with the top five.

THACHER / CATE / WEBB • CALIFORNIA

10.9%

West Coast schools take 3 of the top 4 spots for Top 10 LACs

Thacher 10.9%, Cate 8.0%, Webb 7.3%. Families aiming for top liberal arts colleges should keep West Coast schools on their list.

— HOW TO READ THIS DATA

Know the method **before the numbers.**

RANKED BY

FindingSchool's (FS) 2027 U.S. boarding school rankings.

WHY FS

It weighs academic resources, student-teacher ratio, selectivity, curriculum depth, college placement and more. Its methodology is public and updated every year.

KEEP IN MIND

The FS ranking reflects a school's overall quality. **It is not a measure of selectivity or a college admissions rate.** That's why this report presents the two separately, side by side.

Ivy League	Ivy + Stanford + MIT	Top 30 Universities	Top 10 LACs
Harvard, Yale, Princeton and the five other Ivies	The Ivy League plus Stanford and MIT	U.S. News & World Report 2026 Top 30 National Universities	U.S. News & World Report 2026 Top 10 Liberal Arts Colleges

How to use this data

College placement is **an important factor** in choosing a school, and one of several. Student-teacher ratio, extracurricular resources, dorm culture, location, and whether a school suits your child's personality and learning pace matter just as much.

— HOW TO READ THIS DATA

01

Check data quality before comparing numbers

Schools marked ★ list only colleges above a minimum count, so actual rates are likely higher. Gray rows mean a school doesn't publish counts; they say nothing about its placement. Outcomes also reflect recruited athletes, legacies and more, so they describe the whole school, not teaching quality. Treat this data as one reference point, never the sole measure of a school.

02

We count enrollments, not acceptances

This report counts only students who **ultimately enrolled**. A student often holds offers from several top colleges but can attend only one, so **the share of students admitted to a given college is usually higher than its enrollment rate**.

03

A high rate is not a guarantee

Placement rates describe a whole graduating class. Getting into a given school doesn't lock in a tier of college, let alone the Ivy League. Colleges look at where a student stands **relative to classmates**, and rising to the top of a highly competitive school is very hard. In the end, choose the place that **fits your child and lets them thrive**.

— METHODOLOGY & SOURCES

Calculation Each rate = total students who ultimately enrolled at (not merely were admitted to) colleges in that group during the years covered ÷ total graduates over the same period. Coverage depends on each school's published data (1–5 years). For multi-year data, total graduates = class size × years covered, and the rate is a multi-year average. A student admitted to several target colleges is counted once, at the college they attended. The four metrics are calculated separately and overlap; for example, every Ivy League enrollee also counts toward the Top 30.

Ivy League

Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Penn, Brown, Dartmouth, Cornell

Ivy + Stanford + MIT

the Ivy League plus Stanford and MIT

Top 10 LACs (U.S. News & World Report 2026)

Williams, Amherst, Swarthmore, Bowdoin, Pomona, Wellesley, Claremont McKenna, Carleton, Harvey Mudd, Middlebury

Top 30 universities (U.S. News & World Report 2026)

Princeton, MIT, Harvard, Stanford, Yale, UChicago, Duke, Johns Hopkins, Northwestern, Penn, Caltech, Cornell, Brown, Dartmouth, Columbia, UC Berkeley, Rice, UCLA, Vanderbilt, Carnegie Mellon, Michigan, Notre Dame, WashU, Emory, Georgetown, UNC Chapel Hill, UVA, USC, UC San Diego, Florida

FS 26–100 hidden gems: Schools that publish only where graduates went, without counts, are not included in the table.

Sources: Each school's official School Profile / College Matriculation List; rankings from FindingSchool's 2027 U.S. boarding school rankings. This report is for reference in choosing schools and is not a guarantee of admission.

CORE DATA

Top 25 Schools: College Matriculation at a Glance

Schools are listed by FS 2027 rank. Rate = graduates who enrolled at colleges in each group ÷ total graduates over the same period. Bars are scaled to the highest value in each column; the highlighted bar marks the column leader.

SCHOOL · FS 2027 RANK			COLLEGE MATRICULATION RATE			
#	School	Location	Ivy League	Ivy+Stanford+MIT	Top 30 Univ.	Top 10 LAC
1	Phillips Academy Andover	Andover, MA	16.8%	22.0%	44.4%	6.2%
2	Phillips Exeter Academy ★	Exeter, NH	≥8.1%	≥9.2%	≥15.5%	≥2.6%
3	The Lawrenceville School ★	Lawrenceville, NJ	19.1%	21.3%	41.3%	3.1%
4	Choate Rosemary Hall ★	Wallingford, CT	20.1%	21.8%	44.3%	5.3%
5	Groton School ★	Groton, MA	18.8%	22.9%	43.1%	3.8%
6	St. Paul's School	Concord, NH	21.4%	22.1%	32.5%	5.8%
7	Middlesex School	Concord, MA	8.8%	8.8%	25.2%	5.3%
8	The Hotchkiss School ★	Lakeville, CT	15.5%	17.3%	34.2%	4.4%
9	Concord Academy	Concord, MA	14.2%	15.8%	31.0%	9.0%
10	The Webb Schools	Claremont, CA	6.3%	11.5%	35.4%	7.3%
11	Deerfield Academy ★	Deerfield, MA	15.4%	16.7%	28.0%	6.1%
12	Milton Academy ★	Milton, MA	18.2%	20.6%	35.7%	5.3%
13	Cate School	Carpinteria, CA	10.3%	12.5%	33.8%	8.0%
14	Peddie School	Hightstown, NJ	13.5%	14.9%	30.5%	2.8%
15	The Thacher School	Ojai, CA	10.9%	12.7%	32.7%	10.9%
16	St. Andrew's School ★	Middletown, DE	18.1%	19.4%	36.3%	5.0%
17	The Taft School ★	Watertown, CT	14.3%	14.3%	33.0%	3.6%
18	St. Mark's School ★	Southborough, MA	≥5.9%	≥6.5%	≥14.8%	≥2.2%
19	Episcopal High School	Alexandria, VA	7.8%	8.7%	15.5%	0.0%
20	Suffield Academy	Suffield, CT	4.4%	4.4%	7.9%	1.3%
21	St. Stephen's Episcopal	Austin, TX	4.3%	6.0%	22.8%	3.3%
22	Loomis Chaffee	Windsor, CT	Not disclosed	Not disclosed	Not disclosed	Not disclosed
23	Emma Willard School	Troy, NY	4.9%	6.3%	15.9%	2.7%
24	Dana Hall School	Wellesley, MA	3.8%	3.8%	18.8%	1.3%
25	Blair Academy	Blairstown, NJ	11.9%	12.7%	28.0%	5.1%

★ School lists only colleges above a minimum count; figures are conservative lower bounds

Enrollment counts not published; rate cannot be calculated

— FS 26–100 • HIDDEN GEMS

Beyond the rankings: the **hidden gems** of college placement.

Parents often cross schools ranked 26–100 off their lists. Applying our Top 25 method to the 23 that publish official placement data, we found that many match or even beat the middle of the Top 25.

*Rank isn't everything: some of these schools beat several **Top 15** schools in Ivy League placement, and some rival the **Top 5** in Top 30 placement.*

FOUR HIDDEN GEMS TO WATCH

WOODSIDE PRIORY • FS #68

40.2%

A Top 30 rate on par with the Top 5

Of 87 graduates in the Class of 2026, 4 enrolled at Stanford and 6 at UC Berkeley. Single-year data.

THE HUN SCHOOL OF PRINCETON • FS #52

12.2%

Outplaces several Top 15 schools

Class of 2026: 7 to Princeton, 8 to Cornell. Its Ivy League rate beats Middlesex (8.8%), Cate (10.3%) and Thacher (10.9%).

STONY BROOK • FS #34

26.2%

Higher Top 30 rate than #7 Middlesex

The school lists only colleges with 3+ enrollees, so the true rate can only be higher. Stevenson (22.0%) and Western Reserve Academy (20.3%) are also worth a close look.

CANTERBURY • FS #75

11.0%

Higher Top 30 rate than #20 Suffield

13 Ivy League enrollees in five years. Cheshire ($\geq 12.0\%$), Darlington ($\geq 9.1\%$) and Indian Springs ($\geq 8.7\%$), all FS 78–90, also top Suffield's 7.9%.

HIDDEN GEMS · DATA

FS 26–100 Hidden Gems: College Matriculation

Listed by FS 2027 rank, calculated using the same method as the Top 25 table. Bars are scaled to the highest value in this table; the highlighted bar marks the column leader.

About this table: We include only schools that publish official placement data from which rates can be calculated. Schools that don't publish such data are not listed; their absence says nothing about their placement record.

SCHOOL · FS 2027 RANK			COLLEGE MATRICULATION RATE			
#	School	Location	Ivy League	Ivy+Stanford+MIT	Top 30 Univ.	Top 10 LAC
26	Kent School	Kent, CT	6.9%	7.2%	17.9%	2.6%
27	The Hill School ★	Pottstown, PA	≥4.2%	≥4.7%	≥10.5%	≥0.9%
28	Western Reserve Academy	Hudson, OH	5.7%	5.7%	20.3%	4.9%
31	St. George's School ★	Middletown, RI	5.5%	6.3%	9.0%	No data
32	Williston Northampton ★	Easthampton, MA	4.3%	4.3%	≥5.4%	≥1.7%
34	The Stony Brook School ★	Stony Brook, NY	4.7%	4.7%	26.2%	No data
36	Stevenson School	Pebble Beach, CA	4.5%	6.1%	22.0%	3.0%
37	Westtown School	West Chester, PA	5.7%	6.2%	13.4%	4.6%
41	Tabor Academy ★	Marion, MA	≥3.2%	≥3.2%	≥7.0%	No data
44	George School ★	Newtown, PA	≥1.7%	≥1.7%	≥4.4%	≥1.1%
47	Pomfret School	Pomfret, CT	4.5%	4.5%	14.3%	0.9%
52	The Hun School	Princeton, NJ	12.2%	12.2%	23.1%	0.6%
53	Cambridge School of Weston	Weston, MA	2.1%	2.1%	11.2%	3.2%
55	Brooks School	North Andover, MA	4.2%	5.3%	9.5%	3.2%
57	'Iolani School ★	Honolulu, HI	≥1.7%	≥2.1%	≥5.6%	≥1.4%
58	Virginia Episcopal School	Lynchburg, VA	2.8%	2.8%	18.7%	0.9%
61	Cushing Academy ★	Ashburnham, MA	≥1.4%	≥1.4%	≥5.3%	≥0.7%
68	Woodside Priory School	Portola Valley, CA	9.2%	13.8%	40.2%	3.4%
75	Canterbury School	New Milford, CT	2.8%	3.0%	11.0%	1.9%
78	Indian Springs School ★	Indian Springs, AL	≥1.8%	≥2.8%	≥8.7%	≥2.6%
86	Darlington School ★	Rome, GA	≥2.0%	≥2.0%	≥9.1%	≥1.0%
90	Cheshire Academy ★	Cheshire, CT	≥2.0%	≥2.0%	≥12.0%	≥4.0%
97	The Storm King School ★	Cornwall, NY	≥1.2%	≥1.2%	≥3.5%	≥0.2%

★ Incomplete official list; figures are conservative lower bounds ≥ Based on the minimum published count No data: no enrollments in this group on the official list

What hidden gems mean for families

Admission is usually less competitive than at the Top 25, yet college results rival the middle of that group. **Placement at this level extends well beyond the top-ranked schools.** For students building a balanced list, **these schools deserve serious consideration, though competition for places grows every year.**

— NEXT STEP · COMPLIMENTARY SCHOOL CONSULTATION

Beyond the data, find the school that **truly fits** your child.

College placement numbers are only the first filter. What shapes your child's high school years, and their college applications, is how well a school's culture, class sizes and resources match your child's personality and learning pace.

Book a complimentary consultation, and we'll map out the boarding school and college path that best fits your child.

The admissions office view

Choate, St. Paul's, Suffield, and other boarding school Former Admissions Officers explain what admissions committees look for.

Reach, target & likely list

A tiered school list built on grades, test scores, activities and personality.

Application timeline

Every milestone mapped backward, from the SSAT and interviews to essays.

Book a complimentary consultation →

Contact us

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