

## **U.S. News and World Report High School Rankings**

### **Annual Update: April 27, 2022**

*U.S. News and World Report (U.S. News)* recently released their annual publication that ranks almost 18,000 high schools across the country. If you are learning about this ranking process for the first time, we encourage you to read below to understand how Hanover is uniquely impacted by the methodology used by *U.S. News*.

We maintain that our students perform far better academically than this subjective analysis suggests. At first glance, you will see that our rank appears in the middle of the pack in terms of Massachusetts high schools. Upon further review, you will find that HHS ranks 31st in the state for Curriculum and 72nd in the state for Readiness, both Top 100 rankings that were earned by the Class of 2020 for their performance on Advanced Placement exams.

The *U.S. News* ranking methodology for 2022 uses data from 2, 3, and 4 years ago — specifically, the 2022 rankings are generated from Advanced Placement (AP) exams from the 12<sup>th</sup> graders in 2020 and MCAS exams from the 10<sup>th</sup> graders in 2017, 2018, and 2019 (there were no MCAS exams in 2020). *U.S. News* used grade 10 MCAS results from the three years prior to 2020 in the ranking algorithm. This data has already been factored into our rankings from prior years.

Two of the metrics account for 40% of the ranking, *College Readiness* (30%) and *Curriculum Breadth* (10%). These metrics use AP exam scores from students in the class of 2020. *U.S. News* uses a weighted methodology where passing an exam is worth three times as much as taking an exam. Our students in the class of 2020 did very well on their AP exams, and it is reflected in the national and state rankings in these categories.

Three of the metrics account for 50% of the ranking, *Math and Reading Proficiency* (20%), *Math and Reading Performance* (20%), and *Underserved Student Performance* (10%). These metrics use MCAS scores from grade 10 students from 2017, 2018, and 2019. The “Proficiency” ranking accounts for all grade 10 students taking the MCAS in a given year. The “Performance” ranking is a combination of the *Math and Reading Performance* and *Underserved Student Performance* categories. This metric accounts for 30% of the overall ranking. These two categories focus exclusively on the underserved student population (defined by *U.S. News* as black, hispanic, and low-income students). This designation represents approximately 5-10% of the overall enrollment at HHS (approximately 15 students per year taking the grade 10 MCAS). These subjective metrics affect every district differently based on the size and demographics of their student population. If this small cohort of students has a difficult time with the grade 10 MCAS,

our ranking is negatively affected quite significantly. We will continue to focus time and resources to support all of our students each year, and we are seeing progress with our scores.

The last metric, Graduation Rate, accounts for 10% of the ranking. Holding students accountable for graduation requirements is certainly important. Two years ago, we were perfect with all students graduating within four years of starting at HHS. Most years, we have a few students who require extra time to graduate for many different reasons. The pandemic has certainly brought challenges related to physical and mental health that has required some students to take longer than four years, but they do graduate from HHS with the support of our dedicated teachers, counselors, and administrators. HHS is traditionally one of the top districts in Massachusetts for graduation rate and college participation, and that will not change.

In general, we don't agree with the methodology developed by *U.S. News*, and how it affects HHS because of the heavy emphasis on the performance on one standardized test (grade 10 MCAS), and the emphasis placed on the performance of a specific group of students. However, we take all feedback seriously and we will continue to use this annual report as a learning opportunity to improve wherever possible.

Below is a complete breakdown of the state and national rankings for the past four years by category. Please be assured that we are mindful of the attention that these publications receive. As we emerge from the pandemic and focus our time on supporting all students, this magazine is not our top priority; however, our reputation and your confidence in our schools is very important to all of us.

For more information about the U.S. News and World Report ranking methodology, please use [this link](#).

**National Rank** — US News & World Report — Hanover High School, SY 2022

**2022 National Ranking: 3639 out of 17834 (Percentile: 79.6%)**

2022	Readiness	Curriculum	Proficiency	Performance	Graduation
Rank/17834	1383	759	6399	16176	2814
Percentile	92.2%	95.7%	64.1%	9.3%	84.2%
% Change	- 0.2%	+ 4.9%	- 10.5%	- 17.0%	- 5.4%

**2021 National Ranking: 3125 out of 17857 (Percentile: 82.5%)**

2021	Readiness	Curriculum	Proficiency	Performance	Graduation
Rank/17857	1349	1637	4541	13158	1858
Percentile	92.4%	90.8%	74.6%	26.3%	89.6%
% Change	- 0.6%	- 4.5%	+ 5.8%	+ 7.6%	- 10.4%

**2020 National Ranking: 3045 out of 17792 (Percentile: 82.9%)**

2020	Readiness	Curriculum	Proficiency	Performance	Graduation
Rank/17792	1241	842	5549	14466	1
Percentile	93.0%	95.3%	68.8%	18.7%	100%
% Change	+ 4.2%	+ 7.3%	+ 16.9%	+ 11.8%	+ 14.2%

**2019 National Ranking: 5081 out of 17245 (Percentile: 70.5%)**

2019	Readiness	Curriculum	Proficiency	Performance	Graduation
Rank/17245	1930	2063	8300	16062	2456
Percentile	88.8%	88.0%	51.9%	6.9%	85.8%

**State Rank** — US News & World Report — Hanover High School, SY 2022

**2022 State Ranking: 141 out of 345 (Percentile: 59.1%)**

2022	Readiness	Curriculum	Proficiency	Performance	Graduation	Underserved
Rank	72	31	127	315	110	Below
Percentile	79.1%	91.0%	63.2%	8.7%	68.1%	- 8.4%
% Change	0.0%	+ 21.1%	- 11.0%	- 16.8%	- 11.6%	- 3.2%

**2021 State Ranking: 124 out of 348 (Percentile: 64.4%)**

2021	Readiness	Curriculum	Proficiency	Performance	Graduation	Underserved
Rank	72	104	89	257	70	Below
Percentile	79.3%	70.1%	74.4%	26.1%	79.9%	- 5.2%
% Change	- 0.7%	- 15.7%	+ 5.7%	+ 7.5%	- 19.8%	+ 5.1%

**2020 State Ranking: 116 out of 345 (Percentile: 66.4%)**

2020	Readiness	Curriculum	Proficiency	Performance	Graduation	Underserved
Rank	69	49	108	281	1	Below
Percentile	80.0%	85.8%	68.7%	18.6%	99.7%	- 10.3%
% Change	+ 11.0%	+ 21.7%	+ 16.8%	+ 2.9%	+ 18.5%	- 1.7%

**2019 State Ranking: 185 out of 345 (Percentile: 46.4%)**

2019	Readiness	Curriculum	Proficiency	Performance	Graduation	Underserved
Rank	107	124	166	291	65	Below
Percentile	69.0%	64.1%	51.9%	15.7%	81.2%	- 8.6%