

CHICAGO AREA'S BEST SCHOOLS

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SCHOOL REPORT CARD

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THE TOP 50 CHICAGO AREA SCHOOLS

ELEMENTARY

Area rank	School, City	Percentile	State rank
1	Decatur Classical*, Chicago	89.71	1
2	Keller Gifted*, Chicago	81.94	2
3	Lenart Gifted*, Chicago	80.65	3
4	Edison Gifted*, Chicago	79.05	4
5	Skinner Classical*, Chicago	73.50	6
6	McDade Classical*, Chicago	71.97	7
7	Braeside, Highland Park	70.61	8
8	Highlands, Naperville	69.04	9
8	Poe Classical*, Chicago	69.04	9
10	Ravinia, Highland Park	67.83	11
11	Grove Avenue, Barrington	67.80	12
12	Lincoln, Chicago	66.82	14
13	Hough Street, Barrington	66.35	15
14	Walker, Clarendon Hills	65.80	16
15	Brook Forest, Oak Brook	65.47	17
16	Willowbrook, Glenview	65.17	18
17	Bell-Graham, St. Charles	64.80	19
18	The Lane, Hinsdale	64.54	20
19	Sunset Ridge, Northfield	64.17	21
20	Longfellow, Wheaton	63.98	22
21	Elm, Burr Ridge	63.87	23
22	Willard, Evanston	63.61	24
23	Campanelli, Schaumburg	63.57	25
24	Lincoln, River Forest	63.50	26
25	Whittier, Wheaton	63.04	27
26	Prospect, Clarendon Hills	62.93	28
27	Bell, Chicago	62.82	29
27	North Barrington, Barrington	62.82	29
29	Pleasant Hill, Palatine	62.74	31
30	Oriole Park, Chicago	62.67	32
31	River Woods, Naperville	62.17	35
32	Shabonee, Northbrook	62.10	36
33	A. Jackson Magnet, Chicago	62.06	37
34	Forest Hills, Western Springs	61.98	38
35	Fry, Naperville	61.79	39
35	Prairie, Buffalo Grove	61.79	39
37	Kildeer Countryside, Long Grove	61.71	41
37	Half Day, Lincolnshire	61.71	41
39	Hunting Ridge, Palatine	61.68	43
40	Field, Elmhurst	61.52	44
40	Benjamin Franklin, Glen Ellyn	61.52	44
42	Avoca West, Glenview	61.49	46
43	Ivy Hall, Buffalo Grove	61.41	47
44	Edgebrook, Chicago	61.29	48
45	Field Park, Western Springs	61.14	49
45	Joseph Sears, Kenilworth	61.14	49
47	Madison, Hinsdale	60.95	51
48	Hawthorne Magnet, Chicago	60.91	52
48	Greenbrier, Arlington Heights	60.91	52
50	Wescott, Northbrook	60.83	54

* Tests used to select all students

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Area rank	School, City	Percentile	State rank
1	Young Magnet*, Chicago	97.75	1
2	Edison Gifted*, Chicago	95.62	2
3	Keller Gifted*, Chicago	95.35	3
4	Lenart Gifted*, Chicago	94.74	4
5	Hawthorne Magnet, Chicago	93.55	7
6	Taft**, Chicago	91.82	8
7	A Jackson Magnet, Chicago	90.77	9
8	Bannockburn, Bannockburn	90.35	10
9	Maple, Northbrook	90.29	11
10	Wright JHS, Lincolnshire	89.97	12
11	Kennedy JHS, Lisle	89.80	13
12	Murphy, Wilmette	89.74	14
13	Bell, Chicago	89.71	15
14	Washburne, Winnetka	89.40	16
15	McClure, Western Springs	89.29	17
16	Skinner Classical*, Chicago	88.97	18
17	Wilmette JHS, Wilmette	88.88	19
18	Oriole Park, Chicago	88.72	20
19	Clarendon Hills, Clarendon Hills	88.53	21
20	Lincoln, Chicago	88.45	22
21	Hinsdale Middle, Hinsdale	88.20	23
21	Butler JHS, Oak Brook	88.20	23
23	Morgan Park**, Chicago	88.16	25
24	Woodlawn Mid., Long Grove	88.10	26
25	Kenwood Acad.**, Chicago	87.76	27
26	Mead JHS, Elk Grove Village	87.70	28
27	Aptakisic JHS, Buffalo Grove	87.66	29
28	Deer Path M.W., Lake Forest	87.29	30
28	Twin Groves, Buffalo Grove	87.29	30
30	Central, Glencoe	86.97	32
30	Roosevelt, River Forest	86.97	32
32	Lindblom*, Chicago	86.86	34
33	Chopin, Chicago	86.80	35
34	Joseph Sears, Kenilworth	86.76	36
35	Norwood Park, Chicago	86.65	37
36	Plum Gr., Rolling Meadows	86.61	38
37	Edgebrook, Chicago	86.39	39
38	Sunset Ridge, Northfield	85.95	41
39	Gower Middle, Burr Ridge	85.93	42
40	La Salle Magnet, Chicago	85.72	43
41	Haven Middle, Evanston	85.66	44
42	Prairie Cr. Charter, Grayslake	85.61	46
43	Edgewood, Highland Park	85.27	48
44	Frost JHS, Schaumburg	85.15	49
44	Shepard Middle, Deerfield	85.15	49
46	Gregory Middle, Naperville	84.61	51
47	Thomas, Arlington Heights	84.49	52
48	Pleasantdale, Burr Ridge	84.33	54
48	Haines Middle, St. Charles	84.33	54
50	Rondout, Lake Forest	84.30	56
50	Lincoln Middle, Mt. Prospect	84.30	56

* Tests used to select all students

** Tests used to select 7th & 8th graders

HIGH SCHOOL

Area rank	School, City	Percentile	State rank
1	Northside Prep*, Chicago	91.54	1
2	Payton Prep*, Chicago	88.59	2
3	New Trier, Winnetka	84.97	3
4	Young Magnet*, Chicago	84.38	4
5	Deerfield, Deerfield	83.02	5
6	Hinsdale Central, Hinsdale	81.33	6
7	Glenbrook No., Northbrook	80.92	7
8	Stevenson, Lincolnshire	78.38	9
8	Highland Pk., Highland Park	78.38	9
10	Lake Forest, Lake Forest	78.23	11
11	Jones Prep*, Chicago	76.73	12
12	Naperville No., Naperville	75.33	13
13	Neuqua Valley, Naperville	75.17	14
13	Libertyville, Libertyville	75.17	14
15	Prospect, Mt. Prospect	74.54	16
16	Vernon Hills, Vernon Hills	74.22	17
17	Downers G N, Downers Grove	73.40	18
18	Maine South, Park Ridge	73.24	19
19	Glenbrook South, Glenview	73.07	20
20	Barrington, Barrington	72.07	22
21	Hersey, Arlington Heights	71.90	23
21	Naperville Cent., Naperville	71.90	23
23	Glenbard South, Glen Ellyn	71.06	25
24	Geneva Community, Geneva	70.71	26
25	St. Charles North, St. Charles	70.54	27
25	Wm. Fremd, Palatine	70.54	27
25	Lyons Twp, La Grange	70.54	27
28	Lake Zurich, Lake Zurich	70.19	30
29	Wheaton North, Wheaton	69.85	31
29	Warrenville South, Wheaton	69.85	31
31	Lane Technical*, Chicago	69.67	33
32	Lincoln-Way East, Frankfort	68.79	34
33	York Comm., Elmhurst	66.82	39
34	Glenbard West, Glen Ellyn	66.28	40
35	Waubensie Valley, Aurora	65.73	44
35	Batavia Sr, Batavia	65.73	44
37	St. Charles East, St. Charles	65.54	47
38	Oak Pk/River Forest, Oak Park	65.17	48
39	Downers G S, Downers Grove	64.99	49
40	Lemont Twp., Lemont	64.80	50
40	Buffalo Grove, Buffalo Grove	64.80	50
40	R'side/Brookfield, Riverside	64.80	50
43	Lincoln Way C, New Lenox	64.06	56
44	Lincoln Way W, New Lenox	63.87	57
44	Prairie Ridge, Crystal Lake	63.87	57
46	Hinsdale South, Darien	63.31	60
46	Sandburg, Orland Park	63.31	60
48	Conant, Hoffman Estates	62.93	65
49	Evanston Twp., Evanston	62.17	71
50	Plainfield North, Plainfield	61.98	73
50	Lincoln-Way N, Frankfort	61.98	73

* Tests used to select all students

HOW WE RANKED THE SCHOOLS

For a more than a decade, the Chicago Sun-Times has based its exclusive rankings of schools on average scores on state achievement tests, not on the percentage who meet state standards — a measure that has come under criticism.

Only 2010 reading and math results from the Illinois Standards Achievement Tests and the Prairie State Achievement Exams taken last March and April were analyzed. Results in those subjects can trigger sanctions under the federal No Child Left Behind law.

Elementary school rankings are based on schools that tested at least two grades, third to fifth. Middle-school rankings reflect at least two tested grades, sixth through eighth. High school rankings are based on 11th-grade results. A K-8 school could be ranked among both elementary and middle schools.

The rankings use a statistical method called standardizing to analyze the "scale score" of every reading and math test statewide. The method compares each test score with the state average and creates a school average that's compared with other schools' averages. Standardizing levels the playing field in years when one test might be harder to pass than others.

The rankings include percentiles, reflecting the percentage of Illinois students who scored the same as or worse than the average student at each ranked school.

Sun-Times staff reporter Art Golub performed the analyses.