

InsideSchools

Best High School Bets for the "B" Student

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Everybody talks about the highly selective "it" high schools that only take ace testers and "A" students. But what happens to solid students who don't make the cut? What are their options?

We compiled a list of our picks for the "B" student. These schools offer solid instruction as well as accelerated, college level and elective classes—many are great picks for the "A" student too.

How we compiled our list

We identified high schools that are in the top 30 percent citywide for "college readiness," meaning the percentage of students who graduate with strong enough skills in English and math to avoid taking remedial classes at the City University of New York (CUNY) colleges.

Using the most recent data available (2015-16 school year), schools that have a college readiness rate of at least 43 percent fall into the top 30 percent of schools. The citywide average for college readiness is 34 percent.

Next, we narrowed the list to schools and programs that a "B" student got into as a 9th-grader in the current school year (2017-18). We included options that don't screen for grades—limited unscreened, audition only and educational option admissions methods—as well as screened schools where the lowest accepted grade average for an incoming 9th-grader fell between 65 and 85. For your reference, we also list for each school the lowest 7th grade ELA and math state test accepted for an incoming 9th-grader.

Finally, we believe that stats don't tell the whole story and included a few solid options that don't meet the criteria stated above, either because they are too new to have college readiness data or we believe are worth considering despite falling below our minimum threshold.



Best High School Bets for the "B" Student

Bronx

SCHOOL NAME/PROGRAM FOCUS	% COLLEGE READY	LOWEST GPA ACCEPTED	LOWEST ELA SCORE	LOWEST MATH SCORE
GRADES/SCORES CONSIDERED IN ADMISSIONS				
Bronx High School for Medical Science				
Medical and Health Sciences	58%	72.8	1.9	1.9
Hostos-Lincoln Academy of Science				
Hostos-Lincoln Academy of Science	58%	74.5	2.3	2
Marble Hill High School for International Studies				
International Studies	67%			
International Academy	67%			
Riverdale / Kingsbridge Academy (Middle School / High School 141) (RKA)				
RKA Humanities	55%			
University Heights Secondary School				
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)	86%	79	2.1	2.2
Humanities	86%	78	2.1	1.9
GRADES/SCORES NOT CONSIDERED IN ADMISSIONS				
Bronx Center for Science and Mathematics				
Bronx Center for Science and Mathematics	77%			
Bronx Health Sciences High School				
Bronx Health Sciences High School	50%			
Bronx International High School				
Bronx International High School	54%			
Bronx Latin				
Bronx Latin	44%			
Collegiate Institute for Math and Science (CIMS)				
Collegiate Institute for Math and Science	57%			
Comprehensive Model School Project M.S. 327				
Comprehensive Model School Project (CMSP)	58%			
Mott Hall V				
Mott Hall V High School	57%			
Pelham Preparatory Academy				
Pelham Preparatory Academy	43%			
Urban Assembly School for Applied Math and Science, The				
The Urban Assembly School for Applied Math and Science	43%			



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SCHOOL NAME/PROGRAM FOCUS	% COLLEGE READY	LOWEST GPA ACCEPTED	LOWEST ELA SCORE	LOWEST MATH SCORE
OTHER SCHOOLS TO CONSIDER				
Bronx Academy for Software Engineering (BASE)				
Bronx Academy for Software Engineering (BASE)				
Fordham High School for the Arts				
Fordham High School for the Arts	40%		1.8	1.8
The Cinema School				
The Cinema School	42%	70	1.9	1.9
M.S. 223 The Laboratory School of Finance and Technology				
The Laboratory School of Finance and Technology				
Dual Language Spanish Program				
Young Women's Leadership School of the Bronx (TYWLS)				
Young Womens Leadership School, Bronx		70		



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Brooklyn

SCHOOL NAME/PROGRAM FOCUS	% COLLEGE READY	LOWEST GPA ACCEPTED	LOWEST ELA SCORE	LOWEST MATH SCORE
GRADES/SCORES CONSIDERED IN ADMISSIONS				
Bedford Academy High School				
Health Professions	66%	69.8	2.5	2.8
Technology	66%	67.5	2.4	2.4
Benjamin Banneker Academy				
Pre-Engineering	49%	69.5	1.9	2.4
Pre-Medicine	49%	66.3	1.9	1.9
Humanities	49%	66	2	1.9
Media Communication	49%	65	1.9	1.9
Brooklyn College Academy				
Brooklyn College Academy	74%	82		
Brooklyn International High School				
Brooklyn International High School	59%			
Edward R. Murrow High School				
Studio Theater	50%	84.5	2.8	2.8
Vocal Music	50%	77.8		
Fine and Visual Arts	50%	76		
Instrumental Music	50%	75		
Communication Arts	50%			
Bilingual Chinese (Mandarin) Communication Arts	50%			
Bilingual Spanish Communication Arts	50%			
High School for Public Service: Heroes of Tomorrow				
Law Academy-HSPS	55%	71.5	2.2	2.5
Medical Science and Careers Academy	55%	65	1.9	1.8
Public Service Academy: Social Action & Leadership	55%			
James Madison High School				
Law Institute	45%	85	2.2	2.5
Zoned	45%			
Kingsborough Early College School				
Kingsborough Early College	77%	74.8	2	2.2
Medgar Evers College Preparatory School				
Math and Technology	67%	77		
Science and Research	67%	75		
Midwood High School				
Bilingual Haitian Creole Institute	72%	70.5	2	1.8
Liberal Arts and Science Institute	72%			
Science, Technology and Research Early College High School at Erasmus (STAR)				
Early College	64%	77.5	2.7	2.8



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GRADES/SCORES NOT CONSIDERED IN ADMISSIONS				
All City Leadership Secondary School				
Pre-Med, Pre-Teaching, Pre-Engineering	57%			
Brooklyn High School of the Arts				
Dance	44%			
Visual Arts	44%			
Vocal Music	44%			
Acting/Theater Arts	44%			
Instrumental Music	44%			
The Brooklyn School for Math and Research (B-SMART)				
Mathematics, Science & Humanities	44%			
Brooklyn Secondary School for Collaborative Studies				
Brooklyn School for Collaborative Studies	72%			
City Polytechnic High School of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology				
City Polytechnic High School of Engineering, Architecture & Technology	57%			
El Puente Academy for Peace and Justice				
El Puente Academy for Peace and Justice	64%			
Expeditionary Learning School for Community Leaders				
Expeditionary Learning School for Community Learners	80%			
Fort Hamilton High School				
Zoned	52%			
Vocal Music	52%			
Joffrey Ballet Dance Academy	52%			
Instrumental Music	52%			
Dramatic Arts Academy	52%			
Gotham Professional Arts Academy				
Gotham Professional Arts Academy	44%			
High School of Telecommunication Arts and Technology				
Telecommunication Arts and Technology	58%			
Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH)				
Pathways in Technology Early College High School	58%			
Urban Assembly School for Criminal Justice				
The Urban Assembly School for Criminal Justice	51%			
Williamsburg High School for Architecture and Design				
Architecture and Design	45%			
Williamsburg Preparatory School				
Williamsburg Preparatory School	44%			



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SCHOOL NAME/PROGRAM FOCUS	% COLLEGE READY	LOWEST GPA ACCEPTED	LOWEST ELA SCORE	LOWEST MATH SCORE
OTHER SCHOOLS TO CONSIDER				
The Boerum Hill School for International Studies				
International Baccalaureate	21%	61	1.7	1.7
College, Career & Culinary	21%	55	1.7	1.6



Best High School Bets for the "B" Student

Manhattan

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GRADES/SCORES CONSIDERED IN ADMISSIONS				
City College Academy of the Arts				
City College Academy of the Arts	68%	80	2	2
East Side Community School				
East Side Community	72%	71		
Frank McCourt High School				
Frank McCourt High School	57%	77		
High School for Dual Language and Asian Studies				
High School for Dual Language and Asian Studies	92%	79.5	1.8	2.8
High School for Health Professions and Human Services				
Science & Research M70A	56%	83.5		
Medical Assisting and Lab	56%			
Institute for Collaborative Education (ICE)				
Institute for Collaborative Education	85%			
Manhattan Bridges High School				
Bilingual Spanish Information Technology and Computer Science	50%	70		
Dual Language Spanish Pre-Engineering	50%	70	1.8	1.7
Dual Language Spanish Computer Science	50%	70	1.6	1.6
Bilingual Spanish Pre-Engineering	50%	68.3	1.4	1.5
Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics				
Science & Mathematics Research	80%	80.3	2.5	2.9
Bilingual Spanish Science & Mathematics	80%	67	1.5	1.4
Manhattan Village Academy				
Manhattan Village Academy	93%	77	2	2
N.Y.C. Museum School				
NYC Museum School	89%	83	2.6	2.7
Professional Performing Arts High School (PPAS)				
Musical Theater	54%	83		
Drama	54%	83		
Dance	54%	75		
Classical Vocal Music	54%	74		
School of the Future High School				
School of the Future	81%	73.5	2.2	2.1
Talent Unlimited High School				
Dance: Ballet and Modern	59%	78	2.1	1.9
Vocal Music: Classical and Contemporary	59%	75	2	1.8
Musical Theater	59%	72	2	1.8
Drama	59%	69	2.2	2
Instrumental Music	59%	68	1.9	1.9



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SCHOOL NAME/PROGRAM FOCUS	% COLLEGE READY	LOWEST GPA ACCEPTED	LOWEST ELA SCORE	LOWEST MATH SCORE
The High School of Fashion Industries				
Art Illustration and Graphic Design	48%	75		
Fashion Design and Related Fields	48%	70		
Business Marketing and Visual Merchandising	48%	65		
Young Women's Leadership School (TYWLS)				
Young Women's Leadership School	76%	82		
GRADES/SCORES NOT CONSIDERED IN ADMISSIONS				
Academy for Software Engineering (AFSE)				
Academy for Software Engineering (AFSE)	53%			
Art and Design High School				
Commercial Art and Design	44%		2	1.9
Architectural Design	44%		1.9	1.6
Film/Video Production	44%		2.2	1.9
Essex Street Academy				
Essex Street Academy	60%			
Frederick Douglass Academy				
Frederick Douglass Academy for the Humanities (FDAH)	44%	62.8	1.8	1.7
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)	44%	60.8	1.9	1.8
High School of Economics and Finance				
Economics and Finance	52%			
Landmark High School				
Landmark High School	43%			
Manhattan International High School				
Humanities and Interdisciplinary	48%			
Union Square Academy for Health Sciences				
Pharmacy Technician	50%			
Dental Laboratory Technician	50%			
Vanguard High School				
College Preparatory	46%			
OTHER SCHOOLS TO CONSIDER				
Harvest Collegiate High School				
Harvest Collegiate High School	41%			
Humanities Preparatory Academy				
Humanities Preparatory Academy		77	1.9	1.9
Pace High School				



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PACE High School	40%			
Park East High School				
Park East High School	32%	70	1.9	1.9
Special Music School				
Voice, Instrument, and Composition		68		
Urban Assembly Gateway School for Technology				
UA Gateway	37%			
University Neighborhood High School				
University Neighborhood Early College	32%	63.5	1.9	1.7
Bilingual Mandarin	32%			
CTE Hospitality and Tourism	32%			
Urban Assembly New York Harbor School				
Marine Science	29%			
Marine Technology	29%			
West End Secondary School				
West End Secondary School				



Best High School Bets for the "B" Student

Queens

SCHOOL NAME/PROGRAM FOCUS	% COLLEGE READY	LOWEST GPA ACCEPTED	LOWEST ELA SCORE	LOWEST MATH SCORE
GRADES/SCORES CONSIDERED IN ADMISSIONS				
Academy of American Studies	64%			
Intensive Academic Humanities	64%	81.5	2.8	3
Academic Humanities	64%			
Aviation Career & Technical Education High School	74%			
Aerospace Engineering Technology	74%	83.3	2.5	3
Aviation Maintenance Technology	74%	78	2.2	2.5
Bayside High School	64%			
Environmental Engineering & Technology	64%	88	3	3.3
Humanities & Non-Profit Management	64%	78	2.2	2.4
Digital Art & Design	64%	66.3	1.9	1.9
Music: Performance & Production	64%	65.5	1.9	1.9
Sports Medicine & Management	64%			
Zoned	64%			
Computer Programming & Web Design	64%			
Benjamin N. Cardozo High School	60%			
DaVinci Science/Math Research Institute	60%	90	2.9	3.9
Performing Dance	60%	67.5	1.9	1.9
Zoned	60%			
School of Journalism and Media Studies	60%			
Mentor Law and Humanities Institute	60%			
Forest Hills High School	59%			
Drama Academy	59%	71		
Law Academy	59%			
Academy of Instrumental and Vocal Music	59%			
Dual Language Spanish	59%			
Zoned	59%			
Academy of Chinese Studies	59%			
Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School	80%			
Drama	80%	85	2.8	2.8
Fine Arts	80%	84	2.7	2.6
Dance	80%	83	2.3	2.3
Vocal Music	80%	82	2.6	2.4
Film and Media Arts	80%	82	2.4	2.4
Instrumental Music	80%	79	2.3	2.8
High School for Construction Trades, Engineering and Architecture	71%			
Architectural Design	71%	83		
Construction Trades & Management	71%	80		
Academy of Engineering	71%	80		



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SCHOOL NAME/PROGRAM FOCUS	% COLLEGE READY	LOWEST GPA ACCEPTED	LOWEST ELA SCORE	LOWEST MATH SCORE
Middle College High School at LaGuardia Community College	49%			
Middle College High School at LaGuardia Community College	49%	65.5	2	2
Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School	74%			
Queens Gateway to Health Sciences	74%	71.3	2	2
Queens School of Inquiry, The	72%			
Queens School of Inquiry	72%	82.3		
Queens Vocational and Technical High School	51%			
Cosmetology	51%	78	2	2
Computer Technology and Information Systems	51%	72	2.8	2.4
Pre-Engineering Electronic Technology	51%			
Graphic Arts	51%		1.9	1.8
Exploratory: Introduction to Occupations	51%			
Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Education High School	71%			
Medical Careers	71%	84.5	2.7	3
Robotics/STEM	71%	78	2.8	2.9
Visual Arts	71%	76.8	2.2	2.3
Information Technologies	71%	76.5	2.2	2.5
Computer Aided Design (CAD)	71%	75.5	2.4	2.6
Automotive Technologies	71%	70	2	2.2
Electrical Installation Technologies	71%			
World Journalism Preparatory	51%			
York Early College Academy	94%			
York Early College Academy	94%			
Young Women's Leadership School, Astoria (TYWLS)	63%			
The Young Women's Leadership School, Astoria	63%	84		
GRADES/SCORES NOT CONSIDERED IN ADMISSIONS				
Academy for Careers in Television and Film (ACTV)	62%			
Academy for Careers in Television and Film	62%			
Academy of Finance and Enterprise	77%			
Academy of Finance and Enterprise	77%			
Civic Leadership Academy	55%			
Civic Leadership Academy	55%			
East-West School of International Studies	66%			
East-West School of International Studies for New Students	66%			
East-West School of International Studies for Current Students	66%			
International High School at LaGuardia Community College	52%			
International High School at LaGuardia Community College	52%			
Jamaica Gateway to the Sciences	57%			
Jamaica Gateway to the Sciences	57%			



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Maspeth High School	63%			
Maspeth High School	63%			
Queens Metropolitan High School	46%			
Zoned	46%			
Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Secondary School for Arts and Technology	51%			
Arts and Technology for Current Students	51%			
Arts and Technology for New Students	51%			
Robert H. Goddard High School of Communication Arts and Technology	50%			
Robert H. Goddard High School of Communication	50%			
World Journalism Preparatory: A College Board School	51%			
Franklin Center Science and Technology	51%			
OTHER SCHOOLS TO CONSIDER				
Business Technology Early College High School (BTECH)				
Business Technology Early College High School				
High School for Arts and Business	40%			
Arts and Business	40%			
Hillcrest High School	29%			
Pre-Med Program	29%	75	2	1.9
The Academy of Media, Arts and Music	29%	75	1.9	1.8
Theater Arts	29%	61		
Biz-Tek	29%			
Zoned	29%			
Health Sciences Institute	29%			
Teachers of Tomorrow	29%			
Academy of Public Service and Law	29%			
Metropolitan Expeditionary Learning School	41%			
Metropolitan Expeditionary Learning School	41%			
Preparatory Academy for Writers: A College Board School	36%			
Preparatory Academy for Writers	36%			
Queens High School for Language Studies				
Queens High School for Language Studies				
Robert F. Kennedy Community High School	42%			
College Head-Start	42%			
Veritas Academy				
Veritas Academy				



Best High School Bets for the "B" Student Staten Island

SCHOOL NAME/PROGRAM FOCUS	% COLLEGE READY	LOWEST GPA ACCEPTED	LOWEST ELA SCORE	LOWEST MATH SCORE
GRADES/SCORES CONSIDERED IN ADMISSIONS				
Susan E. Wagner High School				
Scholars' Academy	45%	90.8	3.3	3.6
Law & Politics Institute	45%	89.5	2.7	2.7
Academy of Finance	45%	87	2.7	3.4
Zoned	45%			
Visual Arts	45%		2.3	2.1
Music	45%		1.9	1.9
Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps	45%			
Theater	45%		2.1	2
Tottenville High School				
Science Institute	52%	95	3.4	3.9
Classics Institute	52%	92	3.3	3.2
Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps	52%			
Zoned	52%			
GRADES/SCORES NOT CONSIDERED IN ADMISSIONS				
CSI High School for International Studies				
CSI High School for International Studies	77%			
The Michael J. Petrides School				
Comprehensive Academic for New Students	46%			
Comprehensive Academic for Current Students	46%			
OTHER SCHOOLS TO CONSIDER				
New Dorp High School				
Math & Science Institute	39%	90	2.8	3
Future Teachers' Academy	39%			
Zoned	39%			
Academy of Fine and Dramatic Arts	39%			
Law Institute & AFJROTC	39%			
Institute of Forensic Science	39%			
Academy of Communication and Media Arts	39%			
Institute of Health Sciences	39%			
Corporate Center for Business & Technology	39%			