

Maryland's public schools are #1 in the country!

Maryland earned the nation's highest score (96.4%) in Transitions & Alignment—how well preK–12 education is aligned with early learning and college and career expectations. Maryland earned a B+ (88.2%) on children's Chance for Success—based on a variety of educational and economic outcomes—for a national rank of 5. On the third graded category, School Finance, Maryland earned a B (85.4%) and a rank of 9. When these indicators were combined with Maryland's 2008 scores for K–12 Achievement; Standards, Assessments, and Accountability; and Teacher Quality, Maryland was judged to be the nation's best state for education.

- Education Week

Maryland is #1 in the percentage of high schools offering and students taking college-level courses on the America's Top Public High Schools List.

Maryland has the highest percentage of rigorous high schools on the list, and almost 32% of Maryland high school students attend one of the 83 Maryland schools on the list.

- Newsweek Magazine

Maryland ranks 1st in the nation in the percentage of high school students who earn a college-mastery score on at least one AP exam.

Nearly a quarter of the class of 2008 (23.4 percent) earned a score of 3-5 on at least one AP (Advanced Placement) exam, a jump of 5.7 percent over the past five years.

- College Board

Scores on the ACT college-admission exam rose in 2008—even as participation spiked.

The class of 2008 earned an average composite score of 22.0, up from 21.6 last year; that's well above the national average of 21.1. In fact, Maryland outpaces the nation in all four subjects tested, even though the number of Maryland students taking the exam has jumped 49% since 2004.

- ACT

2008-09 Ranking Maryland's Public Schools

Maryland is one of six states to earn an "A" in college preparation.

Criteria included high school completion; performance on college-entrance and placement exams; percentage of students taking upper level math and science courses; and performance on national assessments.

- National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education

Maryland 8th graders posted the U.S.'s 4th-largest four-year gain on the national math exam.

But scores on the *National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)* aren't just rising; gaps are closing. Maryland's 4th-graders rank 6th in the U.S. for narrowing the reading gap between students in poverty and their wealthier peers. Eighth-graders snagged the same ranking for shrinking the poverty gap in math.

- National Center for Education Statistics

Maryland ranks 9th in the U.S. in preschool access for 4-year-olds.

Thirty-seven percent of Maryland's 4-year-olds are served in state-funded prekindergarten.

- National Institution of Early Education Research

Statewide, 302 teachers earned teaching's top credential—national certification.

Maryland's 2008 total, a new state record, is 9th nationwide; the state's overall total—1,366 nationally certified teachers—is 15th.

- National Board of Professional Teaching Standards

