

# High School Success Program

## Family Guide

Last updated: September 2024



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## Overview

Selecting a high school is an important decision that has big implications for a student's college and career readiness. Our High School Success Program exists to (1) provide scholars and families with information about all of the high school options available to them so they can make informed, careful decisions and (2) support scholars and families in applying for and enrolling in high schools that will meet their needs well. [Click here for a presentation about available high school options and the high school application process.](#)

## How does high school enrollment work in Springfield?

The SPS balloting process is similar to a charter school lottery with a few key differences. The primary difference is that there is some choice and some chance built into the system. Families are asked to rank order their school choices *and then* a lottery is employed for school assignments. In most cases, students will be assigned to the high school that they rank first.

**Reminder!** All Springfield Prep families planning to submit a ballot for SPS high schools will need to register with the SPS Student Assignment and Services (SAS) Office.

Home address/boundaries as they exist for SPS elementary school assignments do not play a role. Previous school performance or qualifications do not play a role with the exception of **Putnam and Springfield Honors Academy** which have additional admission requirements. In order to attend either of those schools, there are criteria that students must meet in order to select them as a choice during balloting. [Click here for more details and guidance about the balloting process.](#) [Click here for more information about the requirements for Putnam and Springfield Honors Academy](#)

## What key dates should I know about?

Key deadlines, as well as an overview of important timelines for high school enrollment, are below:

**September - December:** Applications for independent and parochial schools and Springfield Honors Academy are available. Open Houses are offered at many schools for families to visit and learn more about the schools.

**To consider:** You can apply for a charter school AND submit a SPS ballot to give your child more options. You will learn about charter school admission in March and learn about the results of the SPS balloting process in April.

- **October 24 - Early decision deadline for Springfield Honors Academy**
- **January:**



**Early January** — Springfield Prep families will need to [register online](#) so their child can participate in the high school balloting process.

**Mid January** — Balloting Window Opens. This window is open for 4 weeks and there is no preference given for those who complete their ballot early.

**Late January** - Deadline to apply for Financial Aid at independent schools

- **February:**

- **Mid February** — SPS Balloting window closes
- **Mid February (or early March)** — Charter school application deadlines

- **March:**

- **March 10** - Independent School admission decisions released.
- **March 15** — All charter schools must conclude their principal enrollment process by this date (i.e., if you applied to a charter school, you will know whether your child got a seat by this date. Note that there is a chance students could be admitted in future lotteries).

- **April:**

- **April 10** - Deadline to commit to independent schools.
- **Mid April** — the week before April break, SPS High School assignments are posted.

## **What's important to me/my child?**

The number of high school options can be overwhelming. There are some factors you should consider which will help you to narrow down your list of schools, and find the right school options for you. [Click here for a list of questions to consider as you and your child think about their high school options.](#)

## **What schools are available to me/my child?**

Here is an overview of school types and schools available to your child. [Click here for an overview that provides more details about each school type.](#)



## High Schools in Springfield (and just beyond)

| SPS/SEZP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Charter                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Private                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Springfield Honors Academy*</u></li><li>• <u>Central High School</u></li><li>• <u>Commerce</u></li><li>• <u>Discovery High School</u></li><li>• <u>Duggan Academy</u></li><li>• <u>HSST (Sci-Tech)</u></li><li>• <u>Putnam High School*</u></li><li>• <u>Springfield Virtual School</u></li><li>• <u>Springfield Renaissance</u></li><li>• <u>Springfield Conservatory of the Arts</u></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Veritas High School</li><li>• Baystate Academy</li><li>• Libertas Preparatory</li><li>• Springfield International (formerly SABIS)</li><li>• Hampden Charter School of Science</li><li>• Pioneer Valley Performing Arts</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pope Francis Prep Academy*</li><li>• Suffield Academy*</li><li>• Wilbraham &amp; Monson Academy*</li><li>• Loomis Chaffee School*</li><li>(And more)</li></ul> |



## List of schools to consider

Here is a list of schools to consider, along with an “at a Glance” Guide (developed by Springfield Prep, a link to its Greatschools page, a link to its promotional materials, and a link to its application. This document may be missing some options and/or some details - make sure to check each school's website to make sure information is up to date.

| School*                                                                                              | At a Glance   Website   Promo Video/Material                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Springfield District Schools (SPS) (Includes Springfield Empowerment Zone Partnership (SEZP))</b> |                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Springfield Honors Academy                                                                           | <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">At a Glance</a>   Greatschools   <a href="#">Promo Video</a>   <a href="#">Overview</a>                                   |
| Springfield Renaissance                                                                              | <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">At a Glance</a>   <a href="#">Greatschools</a>   <a href="#">Promo Video</a>                                              |
| Putnam High School                                                                                   | <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">At a Glance</a>   <a href="#">Greatschools</a>   <a href="#">Promo Video</a>                                              |
| Central High School                                                                                  | <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">At a Glance</a>   <a href="#">Greatschools</a>   <a href="#">Promo Video</a>                                              |
| HS of Science & Technology (Sci-Tech)                                                                | <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">At a Glance</a>   <a href="#">Greatschools</a>   <a href="#">Promo Video</a>                                              |
| Springfield Conservatory of the Arts                                                                 | <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">At a Glance</a>   <a href="#">Greatschools</a>   <a href="#">Promo Video</a>                                              |
| Duggan Academy                                                                                       | <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">At a Glance</a>   <a href="#">Greatschools</a>   <a href="#">Promo Video</a>                                              |
| Discovery High School                                                                                | <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">At a Glance</a>   Greatschools   <a href="#">Promo Video</a>                                                              |
| Commerce                                                                                             | <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">At a Glance</a>   <a href="#">Greatschools</a>   <a href="#">Promo Video</a>                                              |
| RISE Prep                                                                                            | <a href="#">Website</a>   At a Glance   Greatschools   Promo Video (Materials not available)                                                                    |
| <b>Charter Schools</b>                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Hampden Charter School of Science                                                                    | <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">At a Glance</a>   <a href="#">Greatschools - East</a> ; <a href="#">Greatschools - West</a>   <a href="#">Promo Video</a> |
| Veritas Prep High School (new)                                                                       | <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">At a Glance</a>   <a href="#">Greatschools</a>   <a href="#">Promo Material</a>                                           |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Springfield International Charter School (aka SICS, formerly Sabis)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">At a Glance</a>   <a href="#">Greatschools</a>   Promo Video                                               |
| Baystate Academy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">At a Glance</a>   <a href="#">Greatschools</a>   <a href="#">Promo Material</a>                            |
| Libertas Academy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">At a Glance</a>   <a href="#">Greatschools</a>   Promo Video                                               |
| Pioneer Valley Performing Arts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">At a Glance</a>   <a href="#">Greatschools</a>   Promo Video                                               |
| <b>Private Schools (Includes Parochial Schools)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                  |
| Pope Francis Preparatory Academy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">At a Glance</a>   <a href="#">Greatschools</a>   Promo Video   <a href="#">Application</a>                 |
| The MacDuffie School                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">At a Glance</a>   <a href="#">Greatschools</a>   <a href="#">Promo Video</a>   <a href="#">Application</a> |
| Wilbraham & Monson Academy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <a href="#">Website</a>   <a href="#">At a Glance</a>   <a href="#">Greatschools</a>   <a href="#">Promo Video</a>   <a href="#">Application</a> |
| <b>Metco</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p>The Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) program is a program designed to “expand educational opportunities, increase diversity, and reduce racial isolation by permitting students in Springfield to attend public schools in other communities that have agreed to participate”. Students from Springfield may attend schools in East Longmeadow, Hampden/Wilbraham, Longmeadow and Southwick-Tolland, through this program, and transportation is provided. The METCO application is typically open between February and April for the following school year. <a href="#">METCO at a glance</a>.</p> |                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>School Choice &amp; Schools in Surrounding Communities</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p>Some districts allow non-residents to enroll, if they have open seats. This typically requires an application and a lottery process. Contact the district's superintendent's office if you are interested in school choice. <a href="#">Read more about school choice on the DESE website</a>.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>School Choice options</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Chicopee HS Website</a> (<a href="#">Great School Ratings</a>)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Chicopee Comp HS Website</a> (<a href="#">Great Schools Ratings</a>)</li> <li>• <a href="#">East Longmeadow HS Website</a> (<a href="#">Great Schools Ratings</a>)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                  |



## Longmeadow

[Longmeadow High School \(Great Schools rating\)](#)

## West Springfield

- [West Springfield High Website \(Great School Ratings\)](#)

## Wilbraham

- [Minnechaug Regional High School Website \(Great Schools Ratings\)](#)

## How can I learn more about each school?

1. The [MA DESE School Profile Website](#) is one place, but can be complicated.

### Resource: MA Department of Education School Profiles

The screenshot shows the MA Department of Education School Profiles website. The top navigation bar includes links for Profiles Home, Directories, Statewide Reports, State Profile, and Profiles Help. A search bar is present on the right. The main content area displays the profile for Springfield Central High, including contact information, a list of related links, and a table of 2021-22 enrollment data.

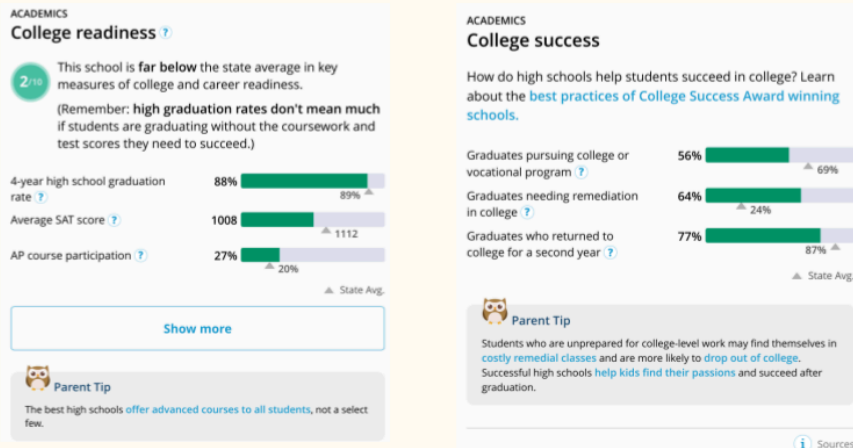
| School Type | School Name                                                                       | School Code | Tests Taken | Score=1 | Score=2 | Score=3 | Score=4 | Score=5 | % Score 1-2 |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Public      | Springfield - Roger L. Putnam Vocational Technical Academy                        | 02810620    | 89          | 36      | 29      | 18      | 6       | 0       | 73.0        |
|             | Springfield - Springfield Central High                                            | 02810500    | 429         | 211     | 126     | 54      | 27      | 11      | 78.6        |
|             | Springfield - Springfield High School of Science and Technology                   | 02810530    | 92          | 54      | 19      | 14      | 5       | 0       | 79.3        |
|             | Springfield - The Springfield Renaissance School an Expeditionary Learning School | 02810205    | 97          | 60      | 24      | 8       | 5       | 0       | 86.6        |





2. [Greatschools.org](https://greatschools.org) is a very helpful, family-friendly resource:

## Resource: [greatschools.org](https://greatschools.org)



3. **For some schools (new schools, recently redesigned schools, or schools “within” schools), you may not find the information you need on these websites and we recommend that you speak to us to learn more.** This applies to schools like Veritas Prep High School and Springfield Honors Academy.

## How can you support high school success, beyond taking these steps?

### How you can support in partnership

- Attendance and grades matter
- Dedicated routines and space for HW
- Have conversations about their interests and what they might want out of the High School experience
- Ask what organizational habits they are using to help them, how they are staying on top of their work, and what they are learning about from their High School Success Counselor.





## What is the school doing to support our current 8th graders?

Springfield Prep is supporting students in a variety of ways:

- **Springfield Honors Academy, Veritas, Libertas and Springfield International** will make presentations to the 8th grade during the fall.
- **Pope Francis High School** - The entire 8th grade will be visiting Pope Francis as a way to learn about one school type that is available to them.
- **Hampden Charter School of Science** - The entire 8th grade will be visiting HCSS as another type of high school option.
- **High School Counseling and High School Success Classes** - Our High School Advisor will provide classroom-based instruction and one-on-one guidance to students and families.

## Ways to get additional support

Feel free to reach out to Beth Bishop, High School Advisor, at [ebishop@springfieldprep.org](mailto:ebishop@springfieldprep.org) for additional support.