

High School Success Program

Family Guide

Last updated: January 2024

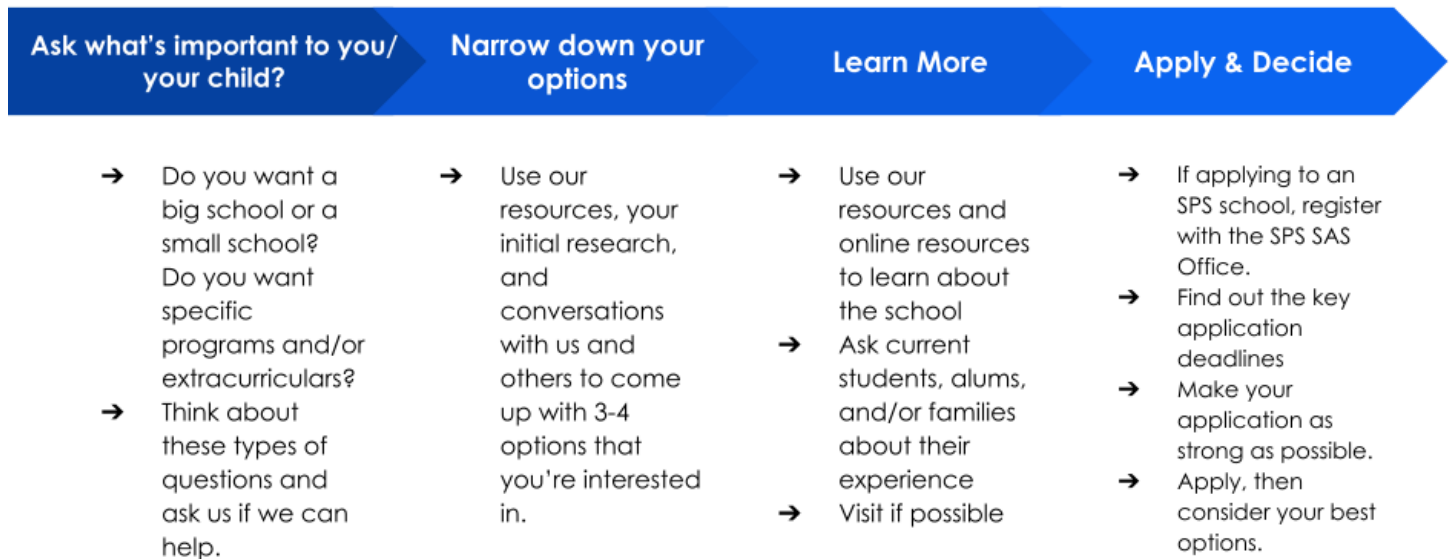


Table of Contents

The four steps to selecting a high school	1
Overview	1
How does high school enrollment work in Springfield?	1
What key dates should I know about?	2
What's important to me/my child?	3
What schools are available to me/my child?	4
List of schools to consider	5
How can I learn more about each school?	8
How can I support high school success, beyond taking these steps?	9
What is the school doing to support our current 8th graders?	9
Springfield Prep is supporting students in a variety of ways in the fall of 2023:	9
Ways to get additional support	9



The four steps to selecting a high school



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 one being 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. 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

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.



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:

- **November-January:** Applicants for some application schools open (Springfield Honors Academy, Pope Francis, etc.)
 - **November 30 - 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.
- **February:**
 - **Mid February** — SPS Balloting window closes
 - **Mid February (or early March)** — Charter school application deadlines
- **March:**
 - **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 they could be admitted in future lotteries).
- **April:**
 - **Mid April** — SPS High School assignments are posted

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.



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.](#)

This matrix may help you to think about the different options available to you and what matters to you and your child:

<p>Large School Pockets of College Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Central High School (when enrolled in Honors/AP track)	<p>Large School Specialized Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Putnam Vocational Technical Academy• Sci Tech (New Putnam Programs)
<p>Small School or High Degree of Individual Support Record of College Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Springfield Honors Academy• Pope Francis High School• Hampden Charter School of Science• Veritas High School (New)• Private "prep" schools (Wilbraham & Monson, MacDuffice, etc.)	<p>Small School or High Degree of Individual Support Specialized Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discovery High School (New)• Springfield Renaissance• Baystate Academy



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"> • Springfield Honors Academy* • Central High School • Commerce • Discovery High School • Duggan Academy • HSST (Sci-Tech) • Putnam High School* • RISE Prep • Springfield Renaissance • Springfield Conservatory of the Arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veritas High School • Baystate Academy • Libertas Preparatory • Springfield International (formerly SABIS) • Hampden Charter School of Science** • Pioneer Valley Performing Arts** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pope Francis Preparatory Academy • Suffield Academy • Wilbraham & Monson Academy • The MacDuffie School



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



Springfield International Charter School (aka SICS, formerly Sabis)	Website At a Glance Greatschools Promo Video
Baystate Academy	Website At a Glance Greatschools Promo Material
Libertas Academy	Website At a Glance Greatschools Promo Video
Pioneer Valley Performing Arts	Website At a Glance Greatschools Promo Video
Private Schools (Includes Parochial Schools)	
Pope Francis Preparatory Academy	Website At a Glance Greatschools Promo Video Application
The MacDuffie School	Website At a Glance Greatschools Promo Video Application
Wilbraham & Monson Academy	Website At a Glance Greatschools Promo Video Application
Metco	
<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 application to apply for METCO is here and is typically open between February and April for the following school year. METCO at a glance.</p>	
School Choice & Schools in Surrounding Communities	
<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. Read more about school choice on the DESE website.</p>	
Chicopee	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicopee HS Website (Great School Ratings) • Chicopee Comp HS Website (Great Schools Ratings) • East Longmeadow HS Website (Great Schools Ratings) 	



Holyoke

- [Holyoke High North Campus Website](#)
- [Holyoke High Dean Campus \(Great Schools Ratings\)](#) (note: these schools have been recently “redesigned”)

Northampton

- [Smith Vocational and Agricultural School \(Great Schools Rating\)](#) - **Note:** Springfield residents are eligible for this program only if they want to study animal science or agricultural machinery.

West Springfield

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

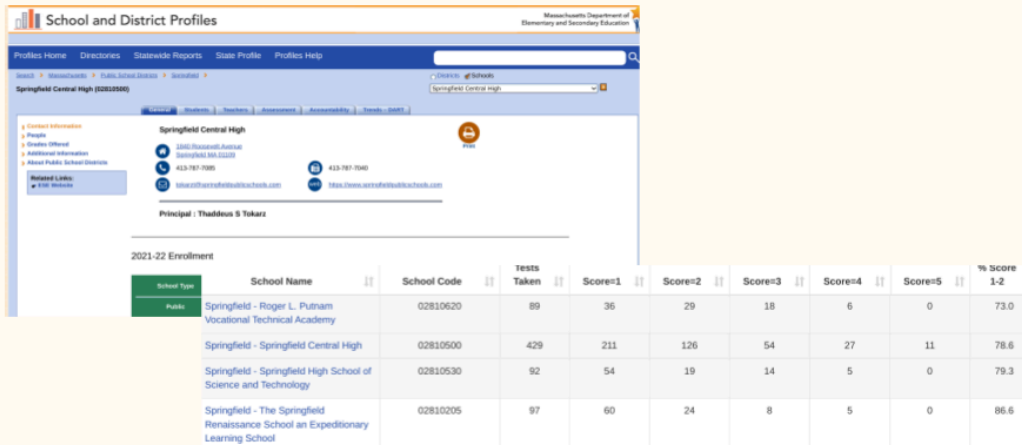
Wilbraham

- [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



Springfield Central High (02812000)

Contact Information

Springfield Central High
 1000 Roosevelt Avenue
 Springfield, MA 01103
 413-787-7085
 413-787-7080
 Newz@springfieldcentralhigh.com
 Mass.Dese@springfieldcentralhigh.com

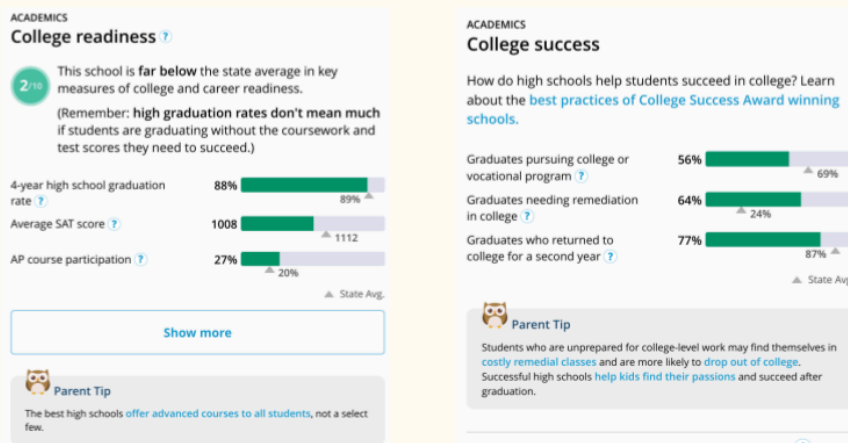
Principal : Thaddeus S Tokarz

2021-22 Enrollment

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](#) is a very helpful, family-friendly resource:

Resource: 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, Hampden Charter School of Science, 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.
- **Veritas Prep** - The entire 8th grade will be visiting Veritas 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 for additional support.