



Any champion will tell you the toughest challenge is staying on top. But that's just what Millburn High School managed to do in this year's ranking of the state's top public high schools. The Essex County school, which was number 1 in the New Jersey Monthly ranking in 2008, repeats as our high school champ in 2010.

In fact, the top of this year's high school ranking is almost identical to the 2008 list, with McNair Academic of Jersey City and Tenaflly High School repeating in the number 2 and number 3 spots, and Glen Ridge High School moving up one notch to number 4.

The Top High Schools list is based on data reported by the schools to the Department of Education for the 2008-2009 school year.

In addition to publishing the Top 100 Public High Schools in this section, we also have compiled the top 10 schools by District Factor Group, which ranks schools based on their socioeconomic peer group ; and a list of the Top 10 Most Improved High Schools, based on our ranking. See the full rankings below.

What the rankings do not tell us is how the schools will fare after losing \$820 million in direct state aid this year. Under Governor Chris Christie's cuts, many of the state's most successful school districts lost every penny of state cash assistance (although the state will pay for certain teacher benefits and the districts' social security contributions).

That's the case at Millburn High School, where aid was cut from \$3 million for 2009-2010 to zero for the new school year. MHS principal William Miron says the cuts forced an approximate 7 percent reduction in his school's budget. That has meant increasing some class sizes, eliminating some classes (five sections of Chinese instead of seven), merging a number of clubs, and cutting back sports schedules. Districtwide, about six administrative positions were eliminated, some through retirements; administrative responsibilities were spread among teachers through the creation of department-chair positions.

"We did a pretty good job of contracting without eliminating teaching positions," Miron says.

A similar scenario is playing out at New Providence High School in Union County, which made a strong leap in the new ranking, moving from number 17 to number 5. The district's state aid was cut from \$1.48 million to zero. NPHS principal Paul Casarico reports that seven teaching and support positions were eliminated districtwide, including two and a half teaching positions at the

high school. “Some of the opportunities that kids could take part in won’t be there this year,” Casarico says. At the high school, that means larger class sizes, fewer coaches (although no sports were dropped), and fewer clubs and activities.

Further down the rankings, Glassboro High School is also feeling the pain; its district lost \$1.7 million, or 10 percent of its state funding. As a result, four and a third teaching positions were cut at the high school, and class sizes have grown, especially in electives like art and African-American history, says principal Santina S. Haldeman. Her school also cut several teams (cross-country, winter track, spring golf), the fall play, and an after-school weight-lifting program.

Glassboro, which has many students from low-income housing areas, has made good progress, moving from number 197 to number 188 in the rankings. (It is number 10 among its District Factor Group peers.) But Haldeman is concerned about hanging onto the gains. “I worry about what the future will bring,” she says. “I think this is just the beginning. I can’t imagine how it will be a year from now in terms of loss of teachers and programs.”

RANK		Full Top High Schools Rankings	
2010	2008	High School	County
1	1	Millburn	Essex
2	2	McNair Academic (Jersey City)	Hudson
3	3	Tenafly	Bergen
4	5	Glen Ridge	Essex
5	17	New Providence	Union
6	8	Northern Highlands Regional (Allendale)	Bergen

7	12	Pascack Hills (Montvale)	Bergen
8	10	Chatham	Morris
9	4	Mountain Lakes	Morris
10	16	Montgomery	Somerset
11	14	Haddonfield Memorial	Camden
12	24	Ridge (Bernards Twp)	Somerset
13	29	Cranford	Union
14	9	Northern Valley Regional (Demarest)	Bergen
15	35	Madison	Morris
16	21	West Windsor– Plainsboro South	Mercer
17	11	Holmdel	Monmouth
18	31	Park Ridge	Bergen
19	23	Ramapo (Franklin Lakes)	Bergen
20	7	Ridgewood	Bergen
21	34	Kinnelon	Morris

22	20	Livingston	Essex
23	25	Pascack Valley (Hillsdale)	Bergen
24	15	Governor Livingston (Berkeley Heights)	Union
25	22	Summit	Union
26	38	West Morris Mendham	Morris
27	37	River Dell Regional (Oradell)	Bergen
28	28	Glen Rock	Bergen
29	19	West Windsor– Plainsboro North	Mercer
30	18	Northern Valley Regional (Old Tappan)	Bergen
31	30	Rumson–Fair Haven Regional	Monmouth
32	36	Bernards (Bernardsville)	Somerset
33	13	Ramsey	Bergen
34	55	Emerson	Bergen
35	40	Indian Hills (Oakland)	Bergen
36	48	West Essex (North Caldwell)	Essex

37	33	Highland Park	Middlesex
38	39	Hopewell Valley Central (Pennington)	Mercer
39	47	Moorestown	Burlington
40	32	Jonathan Dayton (Springfield)	Union
41	27	Westfield	Union
42	45	Whippany Park	Morris
43	42	West Morris Central (Chester)	Morris
44	6	Princeton	Mercer
45	57	James Caldwell (West Caldwell)	Essex
46	100	Pequannock Twp	Morris
47	54	Montville	Morris
48	49	Watchung Hills Regional	Somerset
49	51	Leonias	Bergen
50	87	Parsippany Hills	Morris
51	60	Wayne Hills	Passaic

52	65	Randolph	Morris
53	53	Verona	Essex
54	86	Metuchen	Middlesex
55	26	Cresskill	Bergen
56	68	Mahwah	Bergen
57	61	Cherry Hill East	Camden
58	59	Point Pleasant Beach	Ocean
59	41	Voorhees (Lebanon Twp)	Hunterdon
60	43	North Hunterdon Regional (Clinton Twp)	Hunterdon
61	64	Red Bank Regional	Monmouth
62	69	Scotch Plains–Fanwood	Union
63	46	Wayne Valley	Passaic
64	97	Ocean Twp	Monmouth
65	52	J. P. Stevens (Edison)	Middlesex
66	78	Morristown	Morris

67	91	Bridgewater-Raritan	Somerset
68	93	Waldwick	Bergen
69	50	Science (Newark)	Essex
70	106	Morris Hills (Rockaway)	Morris
71	76	East Brunswick	Middlesex
72	75	Fort Lee	Bergen
73	72	Rutherford	Bergen
74	58	South Hunterdon Regional (West Amwell)	Hunterdon
75	89	Columbia (Maplewood)	Essex
76	81	Fair Lawn	Bergen
77	73	Somerville	Somerset
78	63	Sparta	Sussex
79	88	Morris Knolls (Denville)	Morris
80	109	Colts Neck	Monmouth
81	84	Hillsborough	Somerset

82	90	Allentown	Monmouth
83	128	Dwight Morrow (Englewood)	Bergen
84	104	Parsippany	Morris
85	62	Hunterdon Central (Flemington)	Hunterdon
86	79	Eastern Regional (Voorhees)	Camden
87	118	Palisades Park	Bergen
88	83	Delaware Valley Regional (Alexandria)	Hunterdon
89	74	South Brunswick	Middlesex
90	107	Mount Olive	Morris
91	96	Cherry Hill West	Camden
92	56	Westwood	Bergen
93	117	Marlboro	Monmouth
94	85	Montclair	Essex
95	92	Middletown South	Monmouth
96	67	Hanover Park	Morris

97	80	Haddon Twp	Camden
98	77	Paramus	Bergen
99	110	Ocean City	Cape May
100	108	Shawnee (Medford)	Burlington
101	95	Arthur L. Johnson (Clark)	Union
102	103	Secaucus	Hudson
103	70	Cedar Grove	Essex
104	119	Weehawken	Hudson
105	126	Spotswood	Middlesex
106	162	Dumont	Bergen
107	82	Hasbrouck Heights	Bergen
108	105	Lenape Valley Regional (Stanhope)	Sussex
109	n/a	Robbinsville High School	Mercer
110	166	Dunellen	Middlesex
111	94	Shore Regional (West Long Branch)	Monmouth

112	135	Ridgefield Memorial	Bergen
113	178	David Brearley (Kenilworth)	Union
114	121	Teaneck	Bergen
115	98	Roxbury	Morris
116	44	Midland Park	Bergen
117	196	Creative and Performing Arts (Camden)	Camden
118	113	Monroe Twp	Middlesex
119	102	Pitman	Gloucester
120	124	Lawrence	Mercer
121	176	Henry Hudson Regional (Highlands)	Monmouth
122	120	Lenape (Medford)	Burlington
123	137	Rosa Parks Arts (Paterson)	Passaic
124	115	Manasquan	Monmouth
125	157	High Point Regional (Sussex)	Sussex
126	111	Matawan Regional	Monmouth

127	125	Manalapan	Monmouth
128	114	West Orange	Essex
129	168	Haddon Heights	Camden
130	112	Boonton	Morris
131	66	University (Newark)	Essex
132	129	Freehold Borough	Monmouth
133	172	Point Pleasant	Ocean
134	152	Cherokee (Evesham Twp)	Burlington
135	134	Seneca (Tabernacle)	Burlington
136	234	Bergenfield	Bergen
137	101	Wood-Ridge	Bergen
138	194	North Warren Regional (Blairstown)	Warren
139	116	Mainland Regional (Linwood)	Atlantic
140	146	Piscataway	Middlesex
141	198	North Arlington	Bergen

142	130	Clearview Regional (Harrison Twp)	Gloucester
143	132	North Brunswick	Middlesex
144	170	Passaic Valley (Little Falls)	Passaic
145	131	Lakeland Regional (Wanaque)	Passaic
146	171	John F. Kennedy Memorial (Woodbridge)	Middlesex
147	187	Woodstown	Salem
148	158	South Plainfield	Middlesex
149	163	Kittatinny Regional (Hampton Twp)	Sussex
150	138	Henry P. Becton Regional (East Rutherford)	Bergen
151	173	Bogota	Bergen
152	156	Vernon	Sussex
153	140	Burlington Twp	Burlington
154	192	Southern Regional (Stafford Twp)	Ocean
155	127	Wall	Monmouth
156	165	Technology (Newark)	Essex

157	71	Brimm Medical Arts (Camden)	Camden
158	167	Jefferson Twp	Morris
159	143	Middletown North	Monmouth
160	141	Nutley	Essex
161	99	New Milford	Bergen
162	211	Old Bridge	Middlesex
163	245	Liberty (Jersey City)	Hudson
164	161	Cinnaminson	Burlington
165	209	South Amboy	Middlesex
166	164	Raritan (Hazlet)	Monmouth
167	160	Newton	Sussex
168	207	Arthur P. Schalick (Pittsgrove)	Salem
169	177	Edison	Middlesex
170	142	Saddle Brook	Bergen
171	148	Hawthorne	Passaic

172	195	Audubon	Camden
173	136	Pompton Lakes	Passaic
174	159	Howell	Monmouth
175	149	Washington Twp	Gloucester
176	123	Butler	Morris
177	133	Monmouth Regional (Tinton Falls)	Monmouth
178	182	Lyndhurst	Bergen
179	155	Delran	Burlington
180	175	Hightstown	Mercer
181	214	Jackson Memorial	Ocean
182	185	West Deptford	Gloucester
183	169	Middlesex	Middlesex
184	147	Keansburg	Monmouth
185	191	West Milford	Passaic
186	153	Northern Burlington Regional (Columbus)	Burlington

187	139	Hoboken	Hudson
188	197	Glassboro	Gloucester
189	199	Hamilton East-Steinert	Mercer
190	145	Roselle Park	Union
191	236	Hackettstown	Warren
192	188	Colonia	Middlesex
193	n/a	Barneget High School	Ocean
194	190	Gloucester City	Camden
195	189	Wallkill Valley Regional (Hamburg)	Sussex
196	144	Manville	Somerset
197	151	Gateway Regional (Woodbury Heights)	Gloucester
198	184	Hackensack	Bergen
199	203	Woodbury	Gloucester
200	174	Hopatcong	Sussex
201	150	Franklin Twp (Somerset)	Somerset

202	179	Warren Hills Regional (Washington)	Warren
203	193	New Egypt	Ocean
204	200	Wallington	Bergen
205	154	Arts (Newark)	Essex
206	246	Long Branch	Monmouth
207	180	Ridgefield Park	Bergen
208	224	Palmyra	Burlington
209	206	Pennsville Memorial	Salem
210	201	Memorial (Elmwood Park)	Bergen
211	n/a	Met East High	Camden
212	122	Freehold Twp	Monmouth
213	216	Harrison	Hudson
214	228	Belleville	Essex
215	n/a	Jackson Liberty High	Ocean
216	218	Kingsway Regional (Swedesboro)	Gloucester

217	287	Hillside	Union
218	208	Bordentown Regional	Burlington
219	240	Timber Creek Regional (Gloucester Twp)	Camden
220	215	Dover	Morris
221	292	Cicely Tyson Performing Arts (East Orange)	Essex
222	212	Toms River North	Ocean
223	242	Rancocas Valley Regional (Mount Holly)	Burlington
224	210	Clayton	Gloucester
225	238	Lacey Twp	Ocean
226	181	Bloomfield	Essex
227	217	Egg Harbor Twp	Atlantic
228	n/a	International High	Passaic
229	231	Woodbridge	Middlesex
230	235	Kearny	Hudson
231	225	Sterling (Somerdale)	Camden

232	213	Sayreville War Memorial	Middlesex
233	239	Hammonton	Atlantic
234	186	South River	Middlesex
235	220	Cliffside Park	Bergen
236	205	Lower Cape May Regional (Cape May)	Cape May
237	183	Florence Twp Memorial	Burlington
238	230	Absegami (Absecon)	Atlantic
239	204	Toms River East	Ocean
240	219	Lodi	Bergen
241	227	Manchester Regional (Haledon)	Passaic
242	248	Bayonne	Hudson
243	229	Union	Union
244	254	Oakcrest (Hamilton Twp)	Atlantic
245	258	Ewing	Mercer
246	202	Delsea Regional (Franklin Twp)	Gloucester

247	255	Atlantic City	Atlantic
248	251	Brick Twp	Ocean
249	265	Keyport	Monmouth
250	250	Belvidere	Warren
251	261	Brick Memorial	Ocean
252	269	Highland Regional (Blackwood)	Camden
253	266	Penns Grove	Salem
254	256	Lindenwold	Camden
255	252	Deptford Twp	Gloucester
256	226	North Plainfield	Somerset
257	273	Central Regional (Berkeley Twp)	Ocean
258	262	Hamilton West-Watson	Mercer
259	223	Clifton	Passaic
260	244	Manchester	Ocean
261	249	Rahway	Union

262	241	Pinelands Regional (Little Egg Harbor)	Ocean
263	232	Middle Twp	Cape May
264	260	Hamilton North- Nottingham	Mercer
265	277	Paulsboro	Gloucester
266	257	Pemberton Twp	Burlington
267	237	Collingswood	Camden
268	267	Burlington City	Burlington
269	264	Toms River South	Ocean
270	259	Williamstown	Gloucester
271	288	Emerson	Hudson
272	283	Abraham Clark (Roselle)	Union
273	282	Memorial (West New York)	Hudson
274	278	Central (Newark)	Essex
275	222	Vineland South	Cumberland
276	275	Phillipsburg	Warren

277	284	Salem	Salem
278	221	Triton (Runnemede)	Camden
279	253	Wildwood	Cape May
280	281	Asbury Park	Monmouth
281	298	Riverside	Burlington
282	303	New Brunswick	Middlesex
283	268	Neptune	Monmouth
284	299	Linden	Union
285	233	Union Hill (Union City)	Hudson
286	285	Garfield	Bergen
287	307	Irvington	Essex
288	243	Bound Brook	Somerset
289	311	Eastside (Paterson)	Passaic
290	314	John F. Kennedy (Paterson)	Passaic
291	279	Cumberland Regional (Upper Deerfield)	Cumberland

292	263	East Orange Campus	Essex
293	301	East Side (Newark)	Essex
294	302	Elizabeth	Union
295	247	Willingboro	Burlington
296	294	North Bergen	Hudson
297	286	Buena Regional	Atlantic
298	290	Pennsauken	Camden
299	309	Pleasantville	Atlantic
300	276	Overbrook (Pine Hill)	Camden
301	271	Maple Shade	Burlington
302	272	Carteret	Middlesex
303	297	Bridgeton	Cumberland
304	n/a	Newark Vocational	Essex
305	291	Lincoln (Jersey City)	Hudson
306	289	Millville	Cumberland

307	293	Plainfield	Union
308	295	William L. Dickinson (Jersey City)	Hudson
309	274	Winslow Twp	Camden
310	305	Weequahic (Newark)	Essex
311	306	Barringer (Newark)	Essex
312	304	Henry Snyder (Jersey City)	Hudson
313	312	Passaic	Passaic
314	296	Malcolm X Shabazz (Newark)	Essex
315	308	Orange	Essex
316	300	Lakewood	Ocean
317	310	Trenton Central	Mercer
318	270	Perth Amboy	Middlesex
319	313	West Side (Newark)	Essex
320	280	James J. Ferris (Jersey City)	Hudson
321	315	Woodrow Wilson (Camden)	Camden

322	316	Camden	Camden
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COMMENTS

Hudson County Schools of Technolgy

How do you or do you calculate the County Vocational-Technical Schools comprehensive high schools. I am the Director of Development for Hudson County Schoools of Technology and I did not read any statistics on High Tech or County Prep HS? NJ Monthly has calculated our schools of choice in the past--our schools are similiar to MaNair. Is there a way to discuss the process?? 201 835-3893 Thank you

Posted by: Linda Quentzel, Secaucus | Aug 26, 2010 01:57:43 AM |

Bergen County Academies

How about Bergen County Academies?? This is by far the best school in the State and it's not even ranked? How is that possible?

Posted by: Dulcinea, Bergen | Aug 26, 2010 04:15:31 AM |

Top High Schools methodology

The Top High Schools rankings are based entirely on information reported by the schools to the NJ Department of Education. As explained in the Methodology, certain charter schools and some academies and magnet high schools did not report enough data to be included in the rankings. A link to the complete methodology is available at the top of this page.

Posted by: New Jersey Monthly, Morristown | Aug 27, 2010 14:25:27 PM |

Bergen County Academies and High Tech High

The US News & World Report rankings of public high schools in the US include Bergen County Academies and High Tech High. <http://www.usnews.com/articles/education/high-schools/2009/12/09/americas-best-high-schools-gold-medal-list.html> You will see that these two schools rank far better nationally than any of NJ's public high schools. They're in a completely different league and have a different way of operating (i.e., must apply to get in), so it's not surprising that they were left out of this list. In any event, I would trust US News' methodology much more than the one used in this ranking; they somehow find a way to include schools that are clearly at the top.

Posted by: P., Kinnelon | Aug 27, 2010 16:54:28 PM |

academic achievement and money

Rank the districts in order of average household income or net worth and see how close that list is to this one. Kids in the affluent suburbs and those lucky enough to win the charter school lottery get first dibs when it comes to an education and an employable future, while the kids in the inner cities or poor rural areas get nothing. No politicians have the backbone to do anything about funding methodologies, then everyone wonders why our urban/poor district schools fail. Same discussion has been going on for decades.

Posted by: DS, Fanwood | Aug 27, 2010 17:47:47 PM |

schools and money

DS is voicing a common complaint. That schools in affluent communities do a better job in educating than those in inner cities and poorer communities ... and that somehow it's all about money. Not so fast, DS. The facts show otherwise. Quite a few inner city schools spend more per student than some of the best schools on the list. A lot more. And despite years of Abbott District funding that pushed additional money into inner city and poorer-performing districts, what does the state have to show for it? In reality, many poor performing districts simply haven't spent their money wisely, overstaffing with highly-paid administrators instead of putting the money into teachers. And many of these same districts have been run by one party for decades, yet the voters keep them in office instead of replacing them with people who offer new ideas and better results. No, it takes more than money to provide a good education. Virtually every one of the top schools on this list sets high standards and enjoys a high degree of parental support and involvement. It's time for voters in poorer-performing districts to stop blaming and start examining what they can do differently to get the results every parent wants.

Posted by: rob earl, ho-ho-kus | Aug 28, 2010 15:41:21 PM |

The list doesn't take into consideration the atmosphere of the school due to the quality of the kids who populate it. For example, Marlboro High School doesn't fare too badly on the list, but your kid would be better off without the nasty, weird, personality-disordered people who go there.

In lieu of this list, just find a ranking of NJ towns by income, then live in the wealthiest one you can afford that has good people residing there.

Posted by: K.A., Central NJ | Aug 29, 2010 14:29:09 PM |

nj school ratings

these are the ratings from the '08 - '09 year....they were just published within the last 2 weeks....some big surprises of worsened ratings....

Posted by: audrey, hoboken | Aug 30, 2010 11:56:03 AM |

nj school ratings

Hoboken still doing surprisingly well--- given last ranking they were the 2nd most improved in the state. 2008-09-- they took a hit. Wonder why?

Posted by: C. Marshall, hoboken | Aug 30, 2010 18:10:41 PM |

nj school ratings

Looking at your list, it's not clear why some factors appear to be weighted more heavily than others for your rankings. For instance, in Egg Harbor Township (rank 227), 26 different AP tests are offered, 73% of test takers score a +3, the average SAT is 1445, and 85% of students go on to attend at least a two year institution. However, the average class size is large (24.6). In Hackensack (rank 198), the average SAT is 1336, 26 AP courses are offered, but only 31% of test takers score a +3. Also, 86% of students go on to attend at least a two year institution. In Hackensack, however, class size is somewhat small, with an average class size of 22.1. As someone who looks at data for a living, I would say that the school with a higher SAT and better performance on the AP tests is the better school. However, the algorithm/regression equation you are using appears to place an inordinate emphasis on class size.

Posted by: FFB, Egg Harbor Township | Aug 30, 2010 22:16:43 PM |

NJ Top High Schools

Re: Princeton High School (PHS) rank of 44 this year. There may be an error in the survey on stated % of graduates going to 4 yr college.

NJ Monthly full ranking list shows 66% of PHS graduates going to 4 yr college. PHS website shows 85% of graduates going to 4 yr college (80-90% range has been the case for the last several years). The 85% SAT avg. score of 1856 and all other factors should have Princeton much closer to last years ranking of 6. Hopeful NJ Monthly will resolve this and update the rankings.

Posted by: LW, Princeton | Aug 31, 2010 21:20:50 PM |

Omission of Newark Tech

Every year that I read this list, I am deeply disappointed for my students and staff - the students and staff of "The Mighty" Newark Tech. We are a part of the Essex County Vocational - Technical Schools District. For whatever the reason, you do not recognize the vocational-technical schools, which are also NJ public schools. In '09, my seniors graduated with 98% proficiency on the Languages Arts portion of the HSPA and 88% proficiency in

Math. In 2010, my seniors graduated with 100% proficiency in Language Arts and 88% proficiency in Math. These numbers are phenomenal not only for a school in Newark, but for an inner-city school in which almost 90% of the students are economically disadvantaged. We prove year after year that poverty is an unacceptable excuse. US News and World Report Magazine even recognized us for two consecutive years as one of America's best high schools. I might add that in my principal capacity, I was a 2009 recipient of the prestigious Milken National Educator Award which speaks volumes to what we have accomplished here. I urge you to consider the vocational-technical schools next year. Many of us are doing a phenomenal job educating the same children as the traditional comprehensive high schools. I might add that one of our sister schools - Bloomfield Tech is a Blue Ribbon School, a National Title 1 Distinguished School and recognized by US News and World Report for two consecutive years as well. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Principal Baruti K. Kafele

Posted by: Principal Baruti Kafele, Jersey City | Aug 31, 2010 22:27:11 PM |

Top Schools

Great Report and very useful for my real estate practice.

Thanks.

Danny

Posted by: Danny Kahn, Upper Saddle River | Sep 02, 2010 15:48:30 PM |

not scientific rating

Princeton ranks 44??? this can only prove that your ranking has problem. also, Ridge school ranks top in the national ratings.

Posted by: Harry, bERNARDS | Sep 08, 2010 00:33:37 AM |

Princeton

Criteria used to rank Princeton as been identified and pointed out. Why hasn't NJmonthly corrected this error? Bergenfield better than New Milford or Wall? Definitely some holes in this list.

Posted by: Rick, Hillsborough | Sep 09, 2010 01:12:09 AM |

Demographics

Of the 'top' 100 schools in the NJ Monthly ranking, the vast majority are found in towns in which more than 90% of the population is white or Asian. Only eight schools in the top 100 are found in towns with a combined "white and Asian" population percentage that matches or falls below the overall U.S. average (which was 79% in the 2000 census) for these populations.

Here are some more granular breakdowns:

--60 of the top 100 schools are in towns in which the combined white and Asian population percentage is 95% or higher;

--85 of the top 100 schools are in towns in which the combined white and Asian population percentage is 90% or higher;

--Perhaps more importantly, only 2 of the top 50 schools drop below this 90% threshold (McNair and Highland Park);

--92 of the top 100 schools are in towns in which the combined white and Asian population is 80% or higher.

The eight schools in the top 100 whose hometowns are either at or below the national average for white + Asian populations (79%) are the following. (I've put their NJ Monthly ranking in parentheses before each one, and have put the name of their town and the percentage of their town's population that is white + Asian in parentheses after:)

- (2) McNair Academy (Jersey City; 50.2%*)
- (61) Red Bank Regional (Red Bank; 70.4%)
- (66) Morristown (Morristown; 70.9%)
- (69) Science Park (Newark; 27.7%)
- (75) Columbia (Maplewood; 61.7%)
- (77) Somerville (Somerville; 78.5%)
- (83) Dwight Morrow (Englewood; 47.7%)
- (94) Montclair (Montclair; 63%)

(*Apparently, as a matter of admissions policy, McNair enrolls exactly 25% white, 25% Asian, 25% black, and 25% Hispanic students)

I should point out that I don't believe in racial "explanations" for the by-now-well-documented "achievement gap". But there's no denying that the gap exists. (see <http://bit.ly/86WnB>) Acknowledging that gap, and then also acknowledging that the eight schools above are the only ones in the "top 100" in NJ whose student body includes a percentage of black and Hispanic students at or above the national average, and thus are more likely than the others to reflect that gap in their assessments, complicates the picture that this NJ Monthly ranking paints.

The one totally unambiguous conclusion that I've made so far is that the real shining star in New Jersey's educational firmament is McNair Academy. Everything else is open to debate and interpretation.

Posted by: Pete, Montclair | Sep 10, 2010 14:50:03 PM |

correction

per Princeton Regional web site "The September issue of New Jersey Monthly ranks all of the state's high schools annually. Princeton High School is traditionally in the top several schools; last year was #6. One of the major factors for the ranking is the percentage of graduates going to four year colleges and universities. The PHS class of 2009 had 85% going to four -year post-secondary schools; 8% attending two-year schools. Unfortunately, the magazine had 66% as our four-year rate; thus, they show a ranking for PHS this year at #44....an anomaly that jumps off the page! New Jersey Monthly will note this in the November 2010 issue.:

Posted by: Ken Verbeyst (Realtor Prudential Fox&Roach, Princeton), Princeton | Sep 27, 2010 15:17:16 PM |

Funding

Instead of complaining, why don't the students and schools participate in fundraisers?? All I recall getting in school were textbooks. Everything else was funded by my parents. School supplies, ice cream money, field trips, etc. I recall fundraising for anything additional. Why don't the teachers use the budget as a tool to demonstrate how to achieve with limited means, rather than complaining about not getting handouts on the backs of the taxpayers?? It shows a strong work ethic. Is there something wrong with teaching hard work as a route to success??

Posted by: Cheryl A. Wright, Buena Boro/Landisville | Sep 29, 2010 18:09:33 PM |