

Plymouth High Schools

Are We Getting the Performance (Outcomes) We Deserve for the Dollars We Spend?

The proposed budget for Plymouth High Schools, (North, South, Voc North, Voc South, and Alternative is about \$24.4 million dollars. Materials and supplies account for about \$443 thousand. Roughly \$24 million is the cost of staff. This compares to the \$16.3 million spent in 2014 for essentially the same number of students, slightly more than 2300.

Plymouth’s public schools and the new Plymouth North and Plymouth South High Schools in particular, are by several measures average or below in performance yet spend significantly more per student than almost all of their higher performing peers. SEE the chart below with data and ratings

There are a number of methods for evaluating schools. One of the most used and trusted is the independent, non profit Great!Schools (www.greatschools.org). The criteria they use is based on Test Scores, Academic Progress (Growth), College Readiness, Equity Rating (how well a school serves all of its students), Advanced Courses Rating as well as consideration for discipline and attendance. A rating of 1-3 is below average, 4-7 is average, and 8-10 is above average. So how do Plymouth High schools rate?

Plymouth South HS get a 4 rating and Plymouth North HS gets a 3. Both scores are lower than most high schools in the state and below almost all of the neighboring schools. Schooldigger ranks the two schools in the 54th and 40th percentile

So how do our high schools compare to other local high schools? The chart below shows a Great !Schools/ Schooldigger comparison along with some additional criteria

CATEGORY	PLY NORTH	PLY SOUTH	*RISING TIDE	SILVER LAKE	BOURNE	CARVER	MIDDLEBORO	BRAINTREE
# Students	1,285	1,073	601	1297	462	857	783	1,707
Schooldigger HS Ranking (348 total)	189	212	NA	124	219	137	205	107
Great Schools	3	4	8	7	5	5	5	6

Ranking								
% Graduates attending a 2 or 4 year college	68.4 % combined	68.4% combined	88.20%	75.40%	67.50%	75.80%	73.40%	63%
%AP students receiving 3-5 scores (passing) on a scale of 1-5	55.9% combined	55.9% combined	75%	80%	62.50%	61.10%	60.70%	
Student Teacher Ratio	13 to 1	9 to 1	13 to 1	13 to 1	12 to 1	11 to 1	13 to 1	14to 1
Cost/ Student / All Schools **	\$15,704	\$15,704	\$13,563	\$13,310	\$15,183	\$18,866	\$14,137	\$13,058
% Teachers 3 +years	56%	76%	68%	79%	95%	90%	100%	80%

*Niche ranks Rising Tide High Schools as #65in Best Public High schools in Massachusetts. Niche ranks nearly 100,000 schools and districts based on statistics and millions of opinions from students and parents.

** Does not include facilities debt service.

Additional information and ratings can be obtained from the Mass DOE website (profiles.doe.mass.edu) and from SchoolDigger (www.schooldigger.com)

In the 12/9/2018 meeting of the Board of Selectman, Dr. Maestas, the superintendent of schools said he would dispute some of the formulas used to evaluate the Plymouth high schools. What does he disagree with?

Dr. Maestas also said that Plymouth schools are “Closer to urban than suburban” to explain the poor rating by Great!Schools. Can he elaborate?

Dr. Maestas also stated that “I would put our students up against any students in the Commonwealth.”

In light of all the data presented can Dr. Maestas perhaps explain his extremely high assessment of our high school students?

What are the reasons that Rising Tides performs better than Plymouth high schools? How do they do a better job and yet spend so much less?

Why is Plymouth's pass rate on the Advanced Placement test in 6th and 7th place compared to the neighboring schools?

How much more are we really paying for our high school students if we were to factor in the nearly \$200 million dollars recently spent on construction and sports facilities?

How does the newly appointed principal of Plymouth North High School expect to improve Plymouth North when is most recent experience is with a school with an even poorer ranking than Plymouth North?

How much are we paying in interest on the construction bonds?