

# Gloucester County's best ranked schools based on state rating scores. See full list.

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May 1, 2023

- Updated: May. 01, 2023, 2:04 p.m. |
- Published: May. 01, 2023, 2:03 p.m.

By

[Katie Kausch](#) | [NJ Advance Media for NJ.com](#)

Gloucester County Institute Of Technology is the highest ranked high school in Gloucester County, according to an NJ Advance Media analysis of new school rating data released by the state Department of Education.

The technical school, located in Deptford Township, serves students from throughout the county and ranks 47th statewide among high schools that offer grades 9 to 12.

Among all Gloucester County schools included in the state data, W.C.K. Walls Elementary School in Pitman Borough had the highest summative rating.

The state Department of Education's controversial school ratings system was released earlier this month for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic wiped out standardized testing. **(Use the look-up tool below to find your school.)**

Clayton High School had the highest jump in the high school rankings in Gloucester County, rising 68 spots to 182nd statewide.

Ratings for the 2021-22 school year consider standardized test scores, student academic growth, graduation rates and other factors such as chronic absenteeism. It grades schools from 0-99, calling it their summative score.

Schools that offer the same grade levels are compared to each other and assigned a percentile rating from 0-100 called their summative rating.

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But these school ratings don't tell the full story of a school, said Mike Yaple, a spokesman for the state Department of Education. He cautioned against using the data to make direct comparisons between schools.

Two schools with similar final scores may have markedly different strengths across the categories considered, according to Yaple.

“So the summative rating on its own may not provide a full picture of school performance,” he said.

At best, the system identifies schools that need support and holds them accountable for failing to serve all student demographics, according to Jennifer Robinson, executive director of the Center of Pedagogy at Montclair State University. But while school ratings are important and well-intended, they are “a tricky topic” that can’t reflect the full picture of what’s happening, she said.

Not all schools will appear in the rankings. Schools that only serve students in third grade and below are excluded from the data because standardized tests are not offered for those grades. Some other schools are left off the rankings because the state was not able to collect enough data.

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*Katie Kausch may be reached at [kkausch@njadvancemedia.com](mailto:kkausch@njadvancemedia.com). Follow her on Twitter [@KatieKausch](https://twitter.com/KatieKausch).*

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