

YES PREP RANKED AS TOP OPEN-ENROLLMENT HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOL

Excerpted from Article, April 1:

Children at Risk, a nonprofit organization provided its second annual rankings of 97 public high schools to the Houston Chronicle. The rankings judged the schools on various data, including graduation rates, SAT scores Advanced Placement tests and the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills. Children at Risk highlighted the 10 best campuses, and then divided the others into tiers, with one being the best and four the worst.

Chris Barbic, the founder of YES Prep Public Schools, attributes his students' success to a longer school day and to the quality of the teachers, who, unlike those at the other top-performing schools, are mostly young and inexperienced.

"These are mission-driven folks who believe in what we're trying to do in getting low-income kids through college," Barbic said of his staff.

TOP 10 HIGH SCHOOLS

1. High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (Houston ISD)
2. **YES Prep Southeast (State Charter)**
3. Cinco Ranch High School (Katy ISD)
4. DeBakey High School for Health Professions (Houston ISD)
5. Memorial High School (Spring Branch ISD)
6. Clements High School (Fort Bend ISD)
7. Taylor High School (Katy ISD)
8. Friendswood High School (Friendswood ISD)
9. Clear Lake High School (Clear Creek ISD)
10. Stephen F Austin High School (Fort Bend ISD)

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11. Kerr High School (Alief ISD)
12. Elkins High School (Fort Bend ISD)
13. Kingwood High School (Humble ISD)
14. Westside High School (Houston ISD)
15. Langham Creek High School (Cypress Fairbanks ISD)
16. Stratford High School (Spring Branch ISD)
17. Kempner High School (Fort Bend ISD)
17. Middle College for Tech Careers (Houston ISD)
19. Klein High School (Klein ISD)
20. Lamar High School (Houston ISD)
21. Dulles High School (Fort Bend ISD)
22. High School for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (Houston ISD)
23. Eastwood Academy (Houston ISD)
23. Mayde Creek High School (Katy ISD)
25. Bellaire High School (Houston ISD)
26. Deer Park High School (Deer Park ISD)
27. Klein Collins High School (Klein ISD)

A Letter Written in Celebration of this Achievement:

Dear Friends,

I know that we normally send a monthly e-newsletter to report the accomplishments of YES students and staff, but we couldn't wait to share the news about YES Prep's most recent achievement.

In this weekend's edition of the *Houston Chronicle*, YES Prep ranked second in the list of Houston's top public high schools. Only HSPVA, a vanguard school with a rigorous admissions process, ranked higher. As you know, YES is a completely open-enrollment, public school and our students are chosen through a random lottery system. Therefore, we are thrilled to report that for the second year in a row, **YES has been named the top open-enrollment high school in the Greater Houston area.**

Children at Risk, a local research and advocacy group, ranked 97 public high schools throughout Greater Houston. These rankings took into account a variety of data, including graduation/drop-out rates, scores on SAT and Advanced Placement tests, and class size. YES Prep's ranking is particularly impressive considering we have a higher percentage of low-income students and we receive less state and federal funding than the traditional school districts included on the list.

Although this news is fantastic for the YES family, as the Chronicle details, these rankings ultimately illustrate the educational inequities that exist between schools that serve low-income students and schools that serve more affluent students. It is for this reason that YES exists and continues to expand to provide a truly top-notch education for even more of Houston's underserved students.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our students and staff. This is further proof that your investment over the last nine years continues to yield tremendous results. We look forward to updating you in the coming weeks as our seventh class of seniors prepares to graduate and pursue their dreams of collegiate success.

Many thanks,

Chris Barbic
Founder, Head of Schools