



# NORTH CAROLINA COALITION FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

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## **Sixteen Charter Schools Make List of Top 50 High Schools in North Carolina**

*Although public charter schools comprise about 10% of all public schools in NC, they account for 32% of top-ranked high schools*

*Charter schools are free, public, and open to all*

**Raleigh, N.C.** – U.S. News and World Report included 16 public charter schools on its 2023-24 [list of the top 50 high schools](#) in North Carolina.

Charter schools are free, public, and open to all. There are 211 public charter schools in North Carolina serving about 140,000 students.

Lindalyn Kakadelis, executive director of the N.C. Coalition for Charter Schools, said, **"I'm so proud, but not surprised, that public charter schools hold a disproportionately large share of the top-ranked high schools in North Carolina. Through innovative curricula like drone pilot licensing programs, manufacturing certifications, and more, public charter schools offer something different."**

The 16 public charter schools to make the top-50 list on the U.S. News and World Report rankings are:

- Raleigh Charter High School (Raleigh), #5
- Woods Charter School (Chapel Hill), #9
- Community School of Davidson (Davidson), #13
- Pine Lake Preparatory ( Mooresville), #15
- Gray Stone Day School (Misenheimer), #16
- Lake Norman Charter (Huntersville), #21
- Research Triangle High School (Durham), #22
- The North Carolina Leadership Academy (Kernersville), #27
- The Hawbridge School (Saxapahaw), #37

- Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy (Mooresboro), #38
- Longleaf School of the Arts (Raleigh), #40
- Triangle Math and Science Academy (Cary), #43
- Franklin Academy (Wake Forest), #45
- Oxford Preparatory School (Oxford), #46
- Henderson Collegiate (Henderson), #47
- Pinnacle Classical Academy (Shelby), #49

Students do not need to live in a particular zone, or even in the same county, to attend a public charter school. Schools cannot pick and choose which applicants to admit.

If a public charter school has a waiting list, students are chosen at random in a lottery. An increasing number of public charter schools weight their lotteries to favor economically disadvantaged students.

As of Spring 2023, there were 77,000 student names on public charter school waiting lists.

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