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Nineteen South Carolina high schools make US News & World Report list of best in the country

Mayo High School for Math, Science & Technology was once again included in *US News & World Report's* annual ranking of "[America's Best High Schools](#)". The school, which earned a silver ranking for the second year in a row, joined 18 other high schools in the state that earned a place on the list. Only one school, Charleston County's Academic Magnet High, earned a spot among the magazine's top 100 "gold" schools.

The magazine and its partner in the rankings project, School Evaluation Services, examined 21,069 public high schools in 48 states. The rankings are based on comparisons of students' test scores to state averages and their participation in and performance on Advanced Placement tests.

According to the magazine's website, schools must achieve three steps before being considered one of "[America's Best High Schools](#)". The school must:

Step 1. Attain performance levels that exceed statistical expectations given the school's relative level of student poverty, as measured by state accountability test scores for all the school's students in the core subjects of reading and math.

Step 2. Achieve proficiency rates on state tests for its least advantaged student groups (e.g., black, Hispanic, and economically disadvantaged students) that exceed state averages.

Step 3. Prepare its students for college, as measured by student participation in and performance on Advanced Placement (AP) exams and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) exams.

The 100 high schools with the highest college readiness scores were ranked and awarded gold medals, and the next 504 top-performing high schools received silver medals. Bronze medals went to 1,321 schools. South Carolina ranked 20th nationwide for its number of silver or gold schools as a percentage of its total high schools.

Continued on next page

In addition to Mayo High School in Darlington County, silver honors also went to the Charleston School of the Arts, Chapin High School in Lexington/Richland District Five, Lexington High in Lexington District One, and Riverside High in Greenville County.

Schools listed in the bronze category for 2008 include:

- Aiken High – Aiken County
- Bethune-Bowman Middle High – Orangeburg District Five
- Broome High – Spartanburg District Three
- Calhoun County High – Calhoun County
- C.E. Murray High – Williamsburg County
- Green Sea Floyds High – Horry County
- Greenville Technical Charter High – Greenville County
- Latta High – Dillon District Three
- Ninety-Six High – Greenwood District 52
- Ridge Spring-Monetta High – Aiken County
- Walhalla Senior High – Oconee County
- Wando High – Charleston County
- Wren High – Anderson District One

For more information or to see the full article and list, visit US News & World Reports' online site at www.usnews.com.