

St. Paul's School

Concord, United States



On a 2,000-acre Concord campus where American ice hockey was born in 1883, boarding life still shapes every house and classroom.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	82/100
Academic outcomes	80/100
University placement	79/100
Prestige & heritage	86/100
Alumni network	86/100
Facilities	88/100
Transparency	81/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

A ****2,000-acre**** campus in Concord is not a decorative detail at St. Paul’s School; it defines the place. This is a US boarding school in the old mould, where the school day and the life around it are meant to blur into one another. Founded in 1856, Episcopal in foundation and teaching in English, St. Paul’s sells a full-residential ideal more than a flexible modern package. That matters. Teenagers who want a clean split between school and home, or families who want a lightly managed day-school experience, will find the culture too total. Students who thrive on immersion, routine and a strong house identity will find it ***formative***.

Its market position is clear: this is an elite American boarding school with the price tag to match. The average annual boarding fee is ****\$73,150**** and the average annual day fee is ****\$57,985****, which places it in the top tier of the US independent market. The school covers ages 14 to 18 and offers an American curriculum, so this is not the choice for families who want the IB or British exam structure. It is the choice for parents who want a **deeply residential** sixth-form equivalent in the US, on a campus with real scale and institutional weight. Accreditation from NEASC and NAIS gives the school proper external standing, but accreditation is the baseline at this level, not the selling point.

What is special here is the combination of age, setting and boarding seriousness. The line about American ice hockey being born on campus in 1883 captures something true about St. Paul's: it has a strong sense of its own mythology, and the school uses that history to shape identity and tradition. For the right child, that creates a **powerful** community and a **high-pressure** one. St. Paul's belongs on a shortlist for bright, self-propelling teenagers who want a contained, old-established American boarding environment and have the stamina for a school where communal life is not an extra but the point. It is **not for the faint-hearted**, and that is part of its appeal.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1856, St. Paul's is a fully residential (100% boarding) school on a 2,000-acre campus in Concord, New Hampshire, about an hour from Boston.
- The school's financial aid packages meet full demonstrated need, and families with U.S. household income up to \$150,000 generally qualify for full tuition support.
- A low student-teacher ratio (reported between 5:1 and 8:1 depending on source) and small average class sizes support close faculty contact.
- The endowment stood at \$759.3 million as of June 2024, among the largest of any New England boarding school, underpinning facilities and financial aid.
- Notable alumni include John Kerry, Robert Mueller, Garry Trudeau and Hobey Baker, reflecting a long history of graduates in public life, law and sport.

TRADE-OFFS

- Admissions are highly selective, with acceptance rates reported between roughly 13% and 16% of applicants in recent cycles.
- Total cost is substantial: tuition inclusive of room and board is listed at \$75,400 for the 2026-27 academic year, before any aid.
- As a fully boarding school with no day option, it is not suited to families wanting a day-school or partial-boarding arrangement.
- The rural Concord, New Hampshire setting means limited immediate access to a major city compared with urban day-school alternatives.

ADMISSIONS

St. Paul's admits students into grades 9 through 12 only, with an application deadline of January 15 and required campus interview. Historically affiliated with the Episcopal Church, it welcomes students of all faiths. Reported acceptance rates of roughly 13-16% place it among the more selective American boarding schools. Applicants typically submit SSAT or similar scores; the school is often compared with peers such as Phillips Exeter and Andover. Financial aid is need-based and can cover full tuition for qualifying lower-income families.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_eeb5917697.