

Diving into Your High School Data

What can you learn from school data about your local high schools?

How can you use it to advocate for change?



Diving into Data

Greatschools.org offers school profiles with:

- ✓ Profiles for all schools in the nation
- ✓ Test scores and growth data
- ✓ College Readiness: grad rates, AP, SAT
- ✓ College Success Award
- ✓ Discipline and attendance
- ✓ Community reviews

Waterbury Career Academy Unclaimed

5/10

GreatSchools Rating

[Be the first to review](#)



Public school • 766 Students • Grades PK, 9-12 • [Website](#) • [Contact](#) • [Address](#)



Save



Updates



Review

ACADEMICS

[College Readiness](#)

College Success

Advanced Courses

Test Scores

Courses & Programs

EQUITY

Equity Overview

Race/Ethnicity

Low-Income Students

Students With Disabilities

STUDENT LIFE

Student Demographics

Teachers & Staff

About the School

Reviews

Neighborhood

Moving?

Find homes for rent or sale nearby

Powered by [movoto](#)

Overview

Waterbury Career Academy, a public school located in Waterbury, CT, serves grade(s) PK, 9-12 in [Waterbury School District](#). It has received a GreatSchools Summary Rating of 5 out of 10, based on a variety of school quality measures.

5/10

GreatSchools Summary Rating

6/10

College Readiness

average

4/10

Equity

below average

Last updated: Feb 01, 2024

ACADEMICS

College Readiness

6/10

This school is **about the same as** the state average in key measures of college and career readiness, but depending on the state, average can mean only a minority of students are ready for college and career.

(Remember: **high graduation rates don't mean much** if students are graduating without the coursework and test scores they need to succeed.)

4-year high school graduation rate

97%

88%

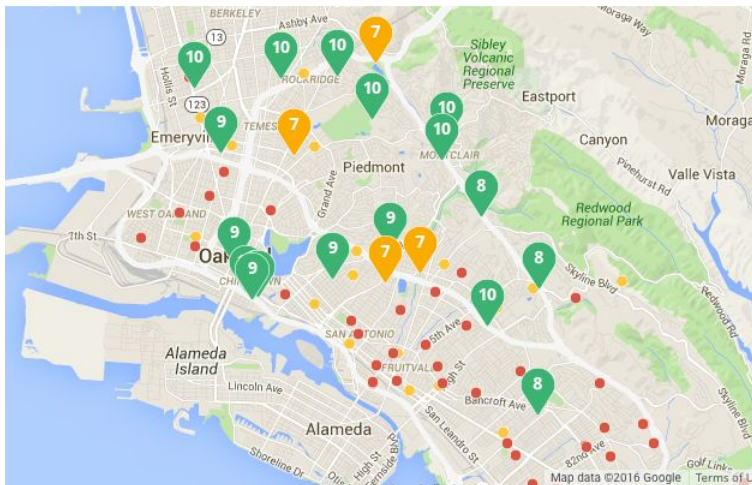
Average SAT score

889

975

Activity: Reflect on your high school ecosystem

Search greatschools in your city, filter for high schools



How do the high schools compare?

Are there a lot of choices?

Are there public, private, charter, magnet, alternatives?

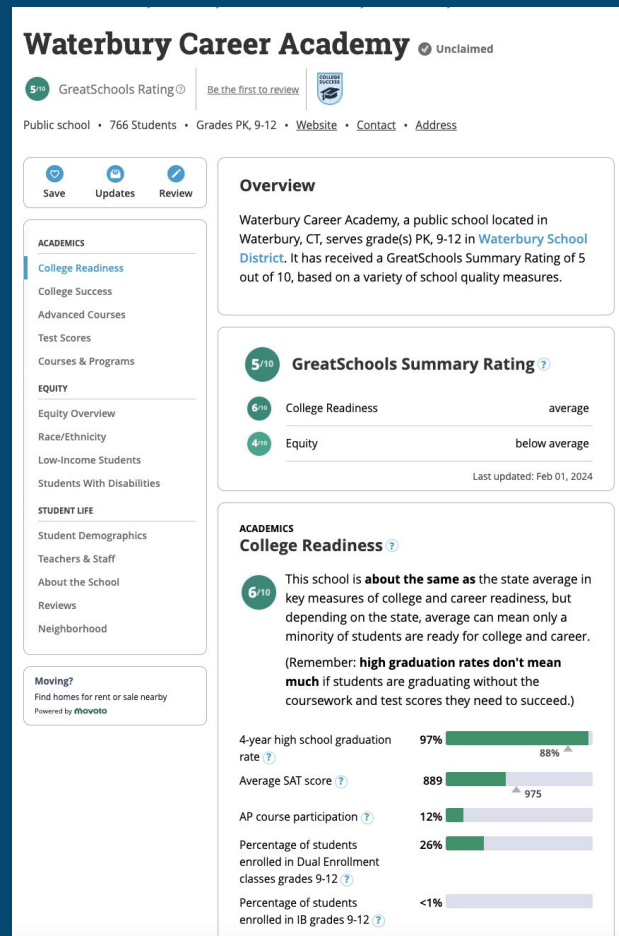
Activity:

Drill into one high school's data

1. Go to greatschools.org
2. Search for a high school in your community

Check out details such as:

- The Equity Rating
- The College Readiness Data
- College Success Award
- Info on chronic absenteeism
- Community reviews
- Diversity of students



Gut check:

What's your response
to all this data?

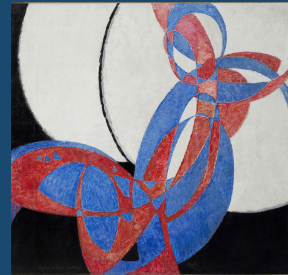


How to use data for advocacy

Look for data points that support your proposal *and* align to district priorities.

Choose data that is easy to communicate *visually and verbally* to:

- Understand the problem
 - *What's going on here?*
- Start a conversation, with a question about data
 - *What do you make of this?*
- Ask a decisionmaker for their support
 - *Are you with me?*
- Offer evidence for your cause
 - *This needs to change*



Data is just a starting point: What more do you want to know?

7

School's approach to equitable outcomes

- ✓ Support for struggling students, access to advanced classes, college counseling, free SATs etc.

School climate

- ✓ How do students/teachers feel about the school? How safe is the school? How inclusive?

Learning experience

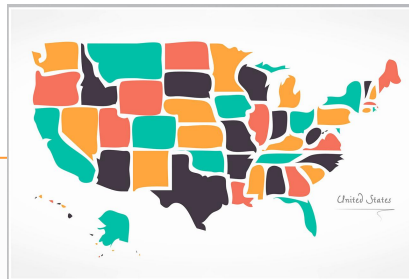
- ✓ What's the schools approach to learning? What's happening inside the classroom?



Where might you find this information?

Other data sources

Where you can find quantitative data



State report cards:

- Connecticut State Report Cards
- Massachusetts State Report Cards
- Vermont State School Reports (really bad)
- Maine State School Info (only bullying, behavior and absenteeism)
- New Hampshire School Reports (good but complex)
- Rhode Island State Report Cards

Other information sources

Where you can find qualitative and anecdotal info

Sources of qualitative and anecdotal information:

- Conversations with parents and educators
- Niche (for high school student reviews)
- Reviews
- School tours (visiting the actual school)
- Stories in the press
- Wikipedia

