

Longview News-Journal

East Texas high schools ranked among nation's best



By [Christina Lane](#)
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Top-performing schools in East Texas

U.S. News and World report analyzed data from more than 20,000 high schools in the 50 states and the District of Columbia to create a national ranking of the top-performing

Six high schools in Gregg, Upshur and Rusk counties have been ranked among the best in the nation by U.S. News and World Report.

White Oak, Gilmer, Union Grove, Union Hill, Carlisle and Mount Enterprise high schools made the list. Joining them on the ranking were eight more high schools in nearby Panola, Cass, Camp and Morris counties – Pittsburg, Daingerfield, Hughes Springs, Gary, Pewitt, Bloomburg (Cass County), McLeod (Atlanta) and Queen City high schools. No high schools in Harrison or Marion counties made the list.

Schools received a designation on a scale from a "gold medal" designation to a "bronze medal" designation based on criteria that included how schools performed on state tests, graduation rates, college-readiness, and how economically-disadvantaged and minority students performed.

campuses. Schools in the Longview area that received a designation are:

White Oak High School

Gilmer High School

Union Grove High School

Union Hill High School

Carlisle High School

Mount Enterprise High School

Pittsburg High School

Daingerfield High School

Hughes Springs High School

Gary High School

Paul H. Pewitt High School

Bloomberg High School

McLeod High School

Queen City High School

Note: The News-Journal looked at schools in Gregg, Upshur, Rusk, Harrison, Panola, Marion, Camp, Morris and Cass counties.

Source: U.S. News and World Report

In addition to national designations, U.S. News and World report also ranked the best schools in each state. Not all schools that earned a national designation were guaranteed a ranking on the state list. Gilmer High School was the only campus to earn a numerical designation on the state list; Gilmer ranked at No. 237.

"This recognition shows how successful our kids are at the high school level," Gilmer ISD Superintendent Rick Albritton said Friday.

Albritton noted Gilmer High School students have excelled in many areas, including ag through its FFA team, band and academics.

"We're very proud of them. Our kids are resilient; they work hard, and this is a reflection of it," he said.

In compiling the rankings, U.S. News and World Report teamed with RTI International of North Carolina, a global nonprofit social science research firm, according to its website. The organizations reviewed 2014-15 school year data from more than 20,000 public high schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

To determine the national rankings, the organizations looked at whether a school's students were performing better statistically on high school proficiency tests than other schools in the state. Only schools that rated in the top 10 percent of campuses in their state for reading and math assessment results passed this step, according to U.S. News and World Report.

Then, the agency considered whether economically-disadvantaged and minority students performed at or better than the state average for students who are considered to be the least-advantaged, according to U.S. News and World Report. The publication compared each school's math and reading proficiency rates for disadvantaged students with the statewide results for these student groups and then selected schools that were performing better than their state averages.

For schools that passed the first two thresholds, the agencies then considered whether schools met or surpassed the benchmark for their graduation rate. The 2017 rankings considered students who were graduating seniors with the Class of 2015 and who would have entered ninth grade in the 2011-12 school year. The basis for U.S. News and World Report was whether at least 75 percent of students graduated.

Schools that passed the first three steps then became eligible for the final assessment, which looked at college-readiness using Advanced Placement test data as the benchmark. That step measured which high schools produced the best college-level achievement for the highest percentage of its students. The data did not include International Baccalaureate data, U.S. News and World report noted. Longview High School offers an IB program.

The 6,041 high schools that passed all of the standards then were ranked themselves with "gold medals" being designated for the 500 top performing schools, followed by "silver" and "bronze" designations. All schools that ranked in East Texas received a bronze medal designation.

"That is one of the most amazing accomplishments," White Oak High School Principal Donna Jennings said. "It's all due to the hard work of our staff and our students. We have amazing people here."

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John Smith ·

Congratulations, GHS students, staff, librarian, counselors, administrators, custodial staff and bus drivers!!! Congratulations, Mr. Albritton!!!

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J. Kevin Smith · Sr Material Coordinator at Enable Midstream

Congratulations, WOHS, Great Job!

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Keith Robison · Owner at Maness Furniture

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Doug Carter · Teacher/Coach at Texarkana Independent School District

Great job Buckeye Nation!!!

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Nerissa Coligan

Way to go Gary High School and all East Texas schools that made the nation's best ranking!

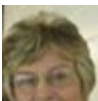
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Jessie Green-Kemp · Lone Star, Texas

Way to Daingerfield High School!

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Brenda Coffey

Pewitt

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Jd Riggs · Works at MTC East Texas Treatment Facility

Great job Carlisle!!!

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Kay Pollan · Retired at Pewitt CISD

Way to go Pewitt , Congratulations

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Stephen Lamb · Works at Retired

Congratulations to ALL involved in making these schools as good as they are. Success starts at the top, and requires hard work by staff, educators, parents and, of course, the students.

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Hari Pradhan

Congratulations

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Patsy Coulter · Diana, Texas



Congratulations Union Hill High School. You make us proud.

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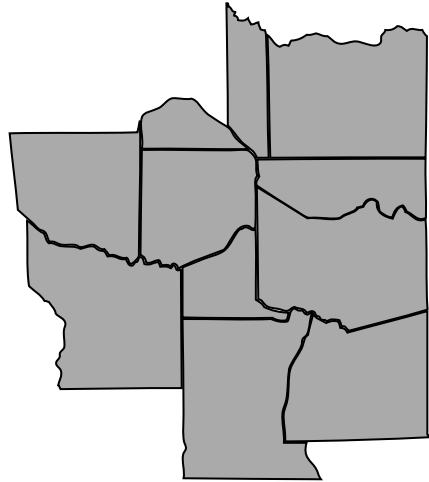


Claudia Kuykendall · Beaumont, Texas

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