

The Roxbury Latin School

Boston, United States



In West Roxbury, a boys' day school founded in 1645 has run continuously ever since, prizing 6:1 mentorship over scale.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	79/100
Academic outcomes	83/100
University placement	81/100
Prestige & heritage	82/100
Alumni network	79/100
Facilities	68/100
Transparency	76/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

At **1645**, Roxbury Latin trades on something few schools can match: uninterrupted age. That history matters less as branding than as a clue to temperament. This is a boys’ day school in West Roxbury with a *hard-edged academic identity*, an American curriculum, and a scale that keeps adults close to pupils. The school’s own line about North American seniority gives it cachet; the more useful fact for parents is the structure underneath it. Classes average **18**, the student-teacher ratio is **10:1**, and the editorial tagline points to 6:1 mentorship as a defining habit rather than a slogan. For a school serving ages 12 to 18, that combination puts Roxbury Latin in the category of *small, exacting, adult-run* institutions where nobody disappears into the crowd.

The market position is clear. At an average annual day fee of ****\$44,000****, Roxbury Latin sits in the expensive end of the US day-school market, but it is not selling sprawl, spectacle or a vast co-curricular city-state. It is selling concentration: boys only, non-religious, English-medium, college-preparatory, and accredited by NEASC and NAIS. Parents who want glossy breadth and endless programme proliferation will find other Boston-area schools that offer more visible scale. Parents who want **serious teaching in a tight frame** will see the appeal immediately. The notable alumni floor is also substantial: 71 catalogued in Wikidata, including politicians, scientists, writers and business figures. That breadth points to an institution with **real intellectual reach**, not a school producing one narrow type of success.

The right student for Roxbury Latin is bright, teachable, resilient and comfortable in an environment with high expectations and little room for drift. Boys who thrive on close attention from teachers, who do not need constant hand-holding, and who value scholarship over show will fit. So will families who want tradition without a religious wrapper. This is **not for the child who needs anonymity**, a loose culture, or a school that dilutes standards in the name of comfort. Roxbury Latin belongs on a shortlist because it offers something rare: a very old school with a **disciplined, intimate academic model** that still reads as purposeful rather than ceremonial.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1645, it is documented as the oldest school in continuous existence in North America and the continent's oldest boys' school.
- Tuition is deliberately kept low relative to peers, with the school stating its fees run about 65% of other Boston-area independent school tuitions.
- Admissions are need-blind, and the school states it meets the entirety of demonstrated financial need for every admitted family.
- Very small classes and a low student-teacher ratio (average class size around 12, with a 6:1 ratio) allow close faculty contact.
- A substantial endowment (reported at \$212 million as of June 2024) underwrites both financial aid and academic resources.

TRADE-OFFS

- The school is single-sex (boys only, grades 7-12), which rules it out for families seeking co-education or wanting a school for daughters.
- It is a day school only, with no boarding option, so relocating families must secure local housing and daily transport, and international families cannot access it as a boarding solution.
- Admission is described by the school itself as selective, and entry testing (ISEE for grades 7-8, SSAT for grade 9+) plus a required campus interview add procedural hurdles for overseas applicants unfamiliar with the US private-school admissions process.
- The curriculum's traditional, classics-rooted, generalist model (Latin required, broad rather than narrow academic focus) may not suit students seeking early specialization in STEM, arts, or vocational pathways.

ADMISSIONS

Roxbury Latin admits boys chiefly at Grade 7 (around 42-45 places) and Grade 9 (12-14 additional places), with occasional openings in Grades 8 and 10. Applicants for grades 7-8 sit the ISEE; those for grade 9 and above sit the SSAT. A campus tour and interview are mandatory, there is no application fee, and the deadline is January 15. Admission is need-blind and described by the school as selective, with priority given to academic curiosity, character, and broad extracurricular engagement rather than narrow specialism.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (71)

SPORT: William Hoyt, Malcolm Whitman, Stuart McNay, Wingate Rollins

MUSIC: Adam Granduciel, Peter Ivers, Stefan Jackiw

DRAMA: Greg Johnson, David S. Lourie, Steve Hely

VISUAL_ARTS: Benjamin F. Nutting, Edmund M. Wheelwright, Q37999545, Christopher Payne, Q107110130, Q6776203

LETTERS: Jared Diamond, Robert W. Wood, Michael Joseph McEttrick, John Wise, Dimitrios Kalapothakis, Edouard A. Stackpole, Margaret Jane Mussey Sweat, Howard Maynadier

POLITICS: Charles W. Tobey, Michael Joseph McEttrick, Paul Grattan Kirk Jr., Edwin Upton Curtis, Q73590329, Peter C. Stein, Kevin Reilly, Richard W. Murphy

SCIENCE: Jared Diamond, Paul Dudley White, Robert W. Wood, Marland P. Billings, Albert Hamilton Gordon, Edouard A. Stackpole, David Latham, Howard Maynadier

BUSINESS: Albert Hamilton Gordon, Roger Altman, Daniel Tarullo, James Dole, Francis Minot Weld, Jr., Kevin Reilly

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_2aa4dcd879.