

Beijing No. 4 High School

Beijing, China



Founded in 1907 by the old imperial walls, this Xicheng day school blends strong gaokao results with electives from physics to cuisine.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	72/100
Academic outcomes	86/100
University placement	82/100
Prestige & heritage	79/100
Alumni network	16/100
Facilities	72/100
Transparency	74/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Beijing No. 4 High School occupies a rare position in Beijing’s state sector: a long-established, academically serious day school in Xicheng with a reputation tied to gaokao performance rather than imported branding. Founded in ****1907****, it offers the Chinese National curriculum for ages ****12-18****, with teaching in Chinese and English. The attraction is plain. This is a school for families who want a demanding local academic route, a central Beijing location and the status that attaches to one of the capital’s best-known public secondary schools. Its character is **scholarly**, **disciplined** and **deeply rooted in the city’s educational culture**. Parents looking for an international-school pastoral wrapper or a glossy bilingual identity will find the wrong institution here.

What puts it on a shortlist is the combination of history, selectivity and breadth within a mainstream Chinese framework. The editorial tagline points to strong gaokao results and electives stretching from physics to cuisine; that matters because it marks the school out from exam factories that narrow too early. The old-imperial-walls setting adds *institutional weight*, but the real selling point is intellectual seriousness. This is a place where high attainment carries social and academic value, and where peers will push one another hard. The market position is clear: not an expatriate school, not a hybrid private bilingual campus, but a top-tier public Beijing high school with *earned prestige* and a *hard-edged academic core*.

The right student for Beijing No. 4 is self-motivated, resilient and comfortable in a competitive environment. They need to thrive under pressure, handle a structured school culture and value academic stretch over lifestyle extras. Students with strong Chinese literacy and the appetite to pursue the domestic route to top universities will fit best. Those who need heavy pastoral cushioning, extensive individual tailoring or a non-exam-centred adolescence will not. For the right family, this school offers *serious ambition* in a form that is recognisably Chinese, urban and exacting.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1906 as Shun-Tian Secondary School, the school became official Beijing No.4 High School after 1949, giving it over a century of continuous operation in central Beijing.
- In September 2002 the school was recognized by the Beijing Municipal Education Commission as one of Beijing's first batch of exemplary regular high schools, and an International Department was added the same year.
- The international division, established in 2002, currently has more than 200 students from South Korea, Japan, the US, the UK, Canada, and more, giving day students exposure to a genuinely multinational peer group.
- In a 2016 ranking of Chinese high schools that send students to study in American universities, the school ranked number one in mainland China and number four internationally for schools outside the United States.
- More than 200 students from the school win medals in municipal, national and international competitions every year, reflecting a strong extracurricular academic culture.

TRADE - OFFS

- Admission to the main campus is highly competitive and occurs primarily through the Zhongkao, with applicants required to be Beijing residents achieving exceptionally high scores; the 2025 admission cutoff was 643 points, effectively closing the mainstream campus to families without local registration.
- Core instruction on the main campus follows the Chinese national curriculum in Mandarin; an English-medium pathway exists only through a separately run international division, so families expecting a bilingual mainstream experience should verify which track applies.
- The international curriculum programme was relocated from the main Beijing site to Jialian School in Changping district from September 2017, meaning the internationally oriented track is now geographically separate from the historic Xicheng campus.
- The school operates across multiple campuses -- high school, junior high, a Guang'anmenwai campus and a Fuxingmen international campus - - plus additional branches, which can mean scale and administrative complexity rather than a single, close-knit site.

ADMISSIONS

Entry to the main Xicheng campus is via the Zhongkao (Beijing's senior high entrance exam) and requires Beijing residency status; competition is intense, with recent cutoff scores in the low-to-mid 600s out of the local scale. A separate International Department/Campus, originally opened in 2002 and later reorganised onto a Changping-based partner site, admits foreign-passport students on a distinct application and interview process, sometimes with an HSK language benchmark. Families relocating to Beijing without local hukou should confirm which pathway -- mainstream Chinese-curriculum or international division -- they are actually eligible for before applying.

WTS RATING 

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