

Livingston American School Shanghai

Shanghai, China



Founded by a former US congressman, this Changning day school pairs a California-aligned curriculum with AP rigor for Shanghai's expat families.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	49/100
Academic outcomes	50/100
University placement	48/100
Prestige & heritage	48/100
Alumni network	47/100
Facilities	55/100
Transparency	41/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Livingston American School Shanghai sits in a part of the market that many families search for and few schools serve cleanly: a full American pathway in Shanghai, taught in English with Mandarin alongside it, running from age 3 to 18 and ending in AP. Founded in 2001, it has had time to settle, and that matters in a city where international-school turnover can be brisk. The school’s origins also give it a distinct profile. It was founded by a former US congressman, and the institutional identity still reads as unapologetically American rather than hybrid, diluted or internationally generic. For families who want California-aligned schooling rather than a British or IB route, that clarity is the point. WASC and CIS accreditation add external scrutiny that parents should expect at this price point. The average annual day fee across the full

age range is ****204,184 RMB****, which places it firmly in the expensive bracket.

What marks Livingston out is not glamour but fit. The website points to year-round enrolment, a bus network across Shanghai, more than ****30+ nationalities****, and a school community that sells itself heavily on accessibility and day-to-day belonging. That combination gives it appeal for internationally mobile families who arrive off-cycle and need a school that can absorb a child without turning admission into theatre. The American curriculum plus AP track also makes practical sense for students targeting US university admissions, and the school foregrounds that route openly, down to SAT and AP test arrangements and counselling support. That is useful, concrete infrastructure, not decorative branding. Parents who want published aggregate AP scores or hard destination data will find ***too much opacity*** here: the school does not publish school-wide AP outcomes, university lists or cohort-wide leavers' results in the public domain.

The student who will thrive here is one who wants a structured American education in a ***genuinely international*** setting, without boarding, without doctrinal edge, and without the cultural friction of switching into a British system. It suits expat families who value continuity, transport convenience and an English-medium education with Mandarin in the mix. It also suits students who need a school that can meet them mid-journey rather than only at the standard intake points. Families chasing elite-status signalling, glossy facilities narratives or heavily publicised results tables will find stronger competitors elsewhere. Families who want an established Shanghai day school with a clear US academic spine, recognised accreditation, and a ***practical, workable*** route from early years to AP graduation should keep Livingston on the shortlist.

STRENGTHS	TRADE - OFFS
• American and AP curriculum for US-oriented families • Year-round enrolment offers flexibility for mid-year moves • More than 30 nationalities represented on campus • Bus service available across Shanghai	• School publishes limited academic outcome data • Only American and AP curriculum listed • Website foregrounds community events over academics

ADMISSIONS

Livingston American School Shanghai is a private American school in Shanghai offering an American curriculum with AP courses. The website says it accepts “new students of all ages and grades” and offers year-round enrolment, which suggests rolling entry rather than a single annual intake. Exact entry points, year-group age bands and any cut-off dates are not set out in the material provided. Nor does the school publicly spell out its admissions assessment format here, so families should expect to ask directly about any testing, interviews, English-language checks or document requirements.

What is clearer is that the school presents itself as accessible to an internationally mobile community, with more than 30 nationalities on roll and bus service across Shanghai. A parent testimonial refers to AP classes, counselling support, SAT and AP arrangements, and WASC accreditation, but this is still anecdotal rather than a formal admissions statement. There is no public information in the source material on bursaries, scholarships or means-tested financial aid, so parents should not assume fee assistance is available without confirmation from the school.

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_5b3027a946.