

American Embassy School

New Delhi, India



Beside the U.S. Embassy in Chanakyapuri, a Joseph Stein-designed campus mixes American college prep with IB rigor for over 70 nationalities.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	71/100
Academic outcomes	73/100
University placement	71/100
Prestige & heritage	71/100
Alumni network	70/100
Facilities	73/100
Transparency	66/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Set beside the U.S. Embassy in Chanakyapuri, American Embassy School trades on two assets that matter: a **serious** international mix and a campus with real architectural pedigree. The school occupies 13 park-like acres and traces its design to Joseph Stein, which gives it a physical identity that many embassy-belt schools lack. It is a non-profit day school, founded in 1953, teaching in English and serving students from ages 11 to 18 in a non-religious setting. The curriculum mix is broader than the school's American branding implies: this is an IB, Indian National and British-curriculum school, with CIS and IBO

accreditation. That combination puts AES in a narrow bracket in Delhi: **genuinely international** in structure, not just in marketing.

The numbers reinforce the scale and shape of the place. The school’s published divisional enrolment runs to 506 in elementary, 281 in middle school and 332 in high school, for a total of ****1,119**** students across Pre-K to Grade 12. For families looking at the secondary years, that high-school population of ****332**** matters. It is large enough to support breadth in courses, activities and friendship groups, but not so large that students vanish into the machinery. The average annual day fee across the full ladder is ****\$35,875****, which places AES in the **expensive** end of the Delhi market. Parents are paying for a rare proposition in this city: an embassy-linked international community, established governance as a non-profit, and a sixth-form equivalent that sits within a full K-12 school rather than a bolt-on senior section.

Why shortlist it? Because AES offers a form of education that suits internationally mobile, academically ambitious students who want an American-style college-preparatory environment without giving up the option of IB rigour. It will also suit students who thrive in a visibly diverse community; the school itself points to an international population spanning over 70 nationalities, and that breadth is a substantive feature, not a decorative claim. This is not the right school for families who want a locally rooted Indian peer group, a traditional British-school identity, or a bargain. It is for students who want **range**, **mobility** and a campus culture with enough scale to be stimulating without tipping into anonymity.

STRENGTHS

- Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and the Council of International Schools, giving external quality assurance beyond the school's own claims.
- Long-established IB Diploma Programme (authorized since 1982) with a 2025 average score of 34 and roughly 70 percent of candidates achieving the full diploma.
- Sits on a 13-acre campus in the Chanakyapuri diplomatic enclave with facilities including a swimming pool, theatre, libraries and dedicated makerspaces.
- Diverse international community drawing students from more than 70 nationalities, with dedicated English as an Additional Language support available.
- Non-profit governance structure means, per the school, a large majority of tuition income is directed toward staffing and facilities rather than shareholder profit.

TRADE - OFFS

- Despite being catalogued here as a boarding option, AES is in fact a day school; no residential accommodation is offered, which matters for relocating families expecting boarding places.
- Admission is not open on equal terms to all applicants: US citizens receive first priority, and Indian citizens must meet narrow Ministry of External Affairs eligibility criteria before they can even apply.
- Fees sit at the premium end of the New Delhi market, quoted in US dollars with a separate non-refundable application fee and a substantial one-time registration charge that can run into the thousands of dollars.
- Location in Chanakyapuri means families outside the immediate diplomatic enclave face Delhi's notoriously heavy traffic, lengthening the school run considerably.

ADMISSIONS

Entry points run from Pre-K through Grade 12, with applications reviewed first-come, first-served within priority categories; US citizens are given first priority, while Indian citizens must separately satisfy Ministry of External Affairs criteria limiting stays to 2-3 years. The process requires two years of report cards, three confidential teacher recommendations for middle/high school, and a non-refundable USD 800 application fee. Seats are not guaranteed even for eligible priority applicants, and demand for non-US, non-diplomatic families can be constrained.

WTS RATING 

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