

Colégio Ari de Sá Cavalcante

Fortaleza, Brazil



Named for a self-taught Ceara educator, its Fortaleza campuses rank among Brazil's top ENEM performers nationwide.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	77/100
Academic outcomes	87/100
University placement	74/100
Prestige & heritage	76/100
Alumni network	70/100
Facilities	74/100
Transparency	74/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Colégio Ari de Sá Cavalcante occupies a clear position in the Fortaleza market: a large, academically driven Brazilian day school with a strong local reputation and a serious exam culture. Founded in **1985**, it serves ages **3–18** and teaches in Portuguese. The school’s editorial appeal rests on one point above all: results. Its Fortaleza campuses sit among Brazil’s top ENEM performers, which places Ari de Sá in the conversation for families who value measurable academic output over educational fashion. *This is a school for ambition, not for parents hunting a progressive idyll.*

What sets it apart is that combination of scale, reputation and sustained examination strength in a city

where school choice matters intensely. The name carries weight in Ceará, and the origin story helps: the school is named for Ari de Sá Cavalcante, a self-taught educator from the state. That gives the brand a distinct local identity rather than the imported gloss that many premium schools borrow. It is non-religious, day-only, and follows the Brazilian curriculum under MEC accreditation. For local families, that means a direct route through the national system without the cost or complexity of an international programme. **The proposition is clear and hard-edged**: academic discipline, established infrastructure, and a school community oriented towards performance.

Parents should shortlist Ari de Sá if they want a school with **a serious academic pulse**, strong competitive instincts and a record that carries status in Fortaleza. It suits children who are comfortable in structured environments, who respond to pace, and who do not need a school to cushion every demand. It also suits families who want a Portuguese-medium education rooted in Brazil rather than an expatriate-facing model. **This is not a soft, pastoral concept of schooling.** The attraction lies in momentum, expectation and the prestige attached to high attainment.

The best fit is the student who is bright, diligent and resilient: a child who wants to do well, can handle pressure, and gains energy from being surrounded by other high performers. Families seeking a **calm, boutique atmosphere** or a school defined by alternative pedagogy should look elsewhere. Families seeking **competitive academic company**, recognised local standing and a direct shot at top Brazilian university pathways should pay attention.

STRENGTHS	TRADE - OFFS
• Its Mario Mamede unit ranked first nationally on the 2025 ENEM exam, with an average score of 801.29 points, according to INEP data. • Five separate Ari de Sa units placed among Ceara's top 15 ENEM performers in 2025, reflecting consistent results across multiple campuses. • In the 2023 ENEM national school rankings, two of its units took second and third place nationally, a result repeated with variation in subsequent years. • The school runs its own in-house curriculum developed in partnership with Arco Educacao, a system used and recognised across Brazil. • Campuses offer accessibility infrastructure (ramps, elevators, tactile signage), science and computer labs, libraries, and on-site nutritionists and psychologists.	• The exam-focused model includes Saturday classes and an optional but widely used afternoon 'contra turno' session, extending the school week considerably. • Entry, especially into the high-performing 'Turma Olimpica' academic stream, requires a selective admissions process rather than open enrollment. • Results vary significantly by campus: 2025 ENEM averages ranged from over 800 at Mario Mamede to under 700 at the Duque de Caxias and Washington Soares units. • The institution's reputation rests heavily on exam-preparation outcomes (ENEM, vestibulares), which may indicate a narrower focus than schools built around broader liberal-arts or extracurricular development.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is through a school-run selection process rather than automatic enrollment, historically involving a placement test and review of academic records; competition is reportedly sharpest for the accelerated 'Turma Olimpica' stream for high-achieving students. The school operates multiple campuses across Fortaleza (including Mario Mamede, Major Facundo, Aldeota, Washington Soares and Duque de Caxias), each with its own capacity and, per public ENEM data, differing academic profiles. Enrollment is managed via the school's online matricula portal, with places typically confirmed annually.

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_f63dae917a.