

SALEM HIGH SCHOOL

Diverse Urban Comprehensive
Public High School



2026-27

PROFILE

77 Willson St., Salem, MA 01970
978-740-1123 •
spssalemhs.salemk12.org • CEEB
221877

SCHOOL SNAPSHOT

960 TOTAL ENROLLMENT

236 Grade 12

2026-27 SHS enrollment

2024 MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL OF RECOGNITION

LATEST DESE DEMOGRAPHICS

2025-26 reporting year

46.8% Hispanic / Latino

38.3% White

7.9% Black / African American

4.1% Multiracial

2.7% Asian

0.2% American Indian / Alaska
Native

68.5% High Needs

57.4% Low Income

26.0% Students with Disabilities

14.8% English Learners

28.2% First Language Not English

LEADERSHIP & COUNSELING

Glenn Burns, Principal

Meghan Grosskopf Sousa

Director of College & Career
Counseling

978-740-1170

Counseling model: dedicated Grade 9
counselor, two Grades 10-12
counselors divided alphabetically, and
a dedicated multilingual learner
counselor.

RIGOR WITHOUT BARRIERS

Salem High School is a diverse urban comprehensive public high school where advanced learning is intentionally accessible through multiple pathways. Students pursue rigorous study through Advanced Placement, AP Capstone, Early College, Career and Technical Education, Project Lead the Way, and an Honors / Pre-AP core curriculum. At Salem, rigor is not defined by a single track.

OPPORTUNITY AT A GLANCE

23 AP COURSES AP Capstone Diploma available	2 EARLY COLLEGE DESIGNATIONS Salem State + North Shore CC
8 + 1 CTE PROGRAMS 8 Chapter 74 + 1 Perkins-funded	2 PLTW PATHWAYS Biomedical + Engineering

AP ACCESS + SUCCESS

273 AP STUDENTS	590 AP EXAMS	71.8% AP STUDENTS WITH 3+	37.7% CLASS OF 2026 WITH 3+
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AP participation grew from 89 students in 2022 to 273 in 2026, while the share of AP students earning at least one score of 3+ rose from 44.9% to 71.8%. All students enrolled in AP courses take the corresponding AP exam.

CLASS OF 2026

239 GRADUATES	73.2% 2- OR 4-YEAR COLLEGE	45.2% GRADE 12 CTE PARTICIPATION	36.4% EARLY COLLEGE PARTICIPATION
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CLASS OF 2026 SELECTIVE COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Princeton University • Amherst College • Pomona College • Tufts University • Middlebury College • Bates College • Boston College • Boston University • Northeastern University • Smith College • College of the Holy Cross • William & Mary • University of Rochester • Skidmore College • Trinity College

ACADEMIC PROGRAM & COURSE RIGOR

- Most standard academic courses are weighted at the Honors level. Limited supported courses and designated upper-level classes are weighted at the College Prep level.
- College Board Pre-AP curriculum is embedded in all Grade 9 core courses, Grade 10 ELA, Geometry and Chemistry, and Grade 11 Algebra II.
- AP access begins in Grade 9 with AP Modern World History and AP Biology. Freshmen may take one AP course. After Grade 9, students may pursue additional AP coursework subject to course prerequisites and teacher guidance.
- AP Seminar and AP Research complete the AP Capstone Diploma sequence. All students enrolled in AP courses are required to sit for the AP exam.
- Additional AP study may be available through independent study and online coursework when scheduling or course rotation limits access.

ADVANCED PATHWAYS

EARLY COLLEGE	Two state designations with Salem State University and North Shore Community College. Students may earn up to 36 college credits in Liberal Arts, Education, Business, and Health & Human Services. The North Shore designation intentionally expands access for multilingual learners.
PROJECT LEAD THE WAY	Biomedical and Engineering pathways include Level 1 and Level 2 coursework and culminate in PLTW Capstone. PLTW courses receive AP GPA weight.
CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION	Eight Chapter 74 programs and one Perkins-funded program. CTE Levels 1-3 receive Honors GPA weight. CTE Co-op receives AP GPA weight.

World Languages: Spanish, Spanish for Heritage / Native Speakers, and French.

SCHEDULE & INSTRUCTIONAL CONTEXT

- Students are fully scheduled and typically take the equivalent of eight full-year courses each year.
- Courses generally meet four days per week for approximately 54 minutes within a modified waterfall schedule.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Salem High School requires 26 credits for graduation. Beginning with the Class of 2026, units and credits are not synonymous in every subject area.

AREA	UNITS	CREDITS
English	4	4.0
Mathematics*	4	5.0
Social Studies	3	3.0
Lab-Based Science	3	3.0
World Language**	2	2.0
Physical Education	2	2.0
Career/Tech Ed & Arts	1	1.0
Health	0.5	0.5
Electives	-	6.5

* Mathematics must include Algebra II. Algebra I is double blocked and may result in 2 credits. ** World Language may be waived for students participating in a Career and Technical Education pathway from Grades 9-12.

GPA, RANK & WEIGHTING

- Salem reports weighted GPA only.
- Salem High School does not rank students. Deciles are provided when needed.
- AP weight: AP, PLTW, Early College, and CTE Co-op.
- Honors weight: most standard academic courses and CTE Levels 1-3.
- College Prep weight: supported courses and designated upper-level CP classes.

PROFICIENCY-BASED GRADING

Salem uses a proficiency-based grading system. Final proficiency scores are converted to letter grades for the official transcript. Only the converted letter grade appears on the transcript.

MASTERY	GRADE	CP	H	AP
3.8-4.0	A+	4.3	4.8	5.3
3.4-3.7	A	4.0	4.5	5.0
3.0-3.3	A-	3.7	4.2	4.7
2.9	B+	3.3	3.8	4.3
2.8	B	3.0	3.5	4.0
2.7	B-	2.7	3.2	3.7
2.6	C+	2.3	2.8	3.3
2.5	C	2.0	2.5	3.0
2.4	C-	1.7	2.2	2.7
2.3	D	1.3	1.8	2.3
2.2 and below	F	0	0	0
NC	NC	0	0	0

The traditional percentage ranges shown in older SHS profiles are not used to calculate transcript grades.

COUNSELING CONTEXT

Grade 9 counselor caseload: 200
Grades 10-12 counselor caseloads: 270 and 306
Multilingual learner counselor caseload: 158
Counselors support a comprehensive population across college, career, Early College, CTE, multilingual learner, and postsecondary planning pathways.

