

Albany and Rensselaer Education System

Overview

Albany and Rensselaer are cities that straddle the Hudson River. Albany, the larger of the two at approximately 99,000 residents, is on the west bank of the Hudson. Albany is the capital of New York State, and this area is sometimes referred to as “the Capital Region.” Rensselaer, at 9,392 residents, is on the eastern side. Despite their close proximity, they are in different counties and, thus, their educational systems are separate from one another.

The Albany public school district serves approximately 9,300 students in 18 elementary, middle and high schools. In addition to neighborhood schools, the district includes several magnet schools and programs, as well as other academic opportunities for students, including four themed academies at Albany High School. In Rensselaer, for the 2021 school year, there are 2 public schools serving 1,124 students in the Rensselaer City School District.

In addition to the publicly funded schools, there are a number of private schools which are independent organizations and are financed in whole or in part by charging tuition for attendance.

The public schools in Albany are run by The City School District of Albany. Rensselaer City School District is part of Rensselaer.

The academic year for both Public and Private schools is typically September to June.

Public Schools

Detailed below are the various cutoff dates and additional information for school enrollment. The enrollment for Albany City Schools is managed on their district website located [here](#). Set up your profile today to easily explore the programs available based on your child’s age and permanent address, favorite the top choice schools, and apply when the application period opens. You can see a list of the documents you’ll need to register your child on the [K-12 Registration](#) page to ensure you have all the proper documents. These include the child’s birth certificate, parental photo identification, proof of address, proof of custody, immunization record and any report card for prior schooling.



Elementary School: Albany

To be enrolled in kindergarten in Albany, children must turn 5 years old by December 1 of the school year they are registering for. Please note that the Albany City School District states that while they do their best to enroll children in their neighborhood elementary school, a space is not always guaranteed due to the number of seats available.

Elementary School: Rensselaer

Because Rensselaer School District is a smaller school, call the District Registrar for instructions on how to register a child. District Registrar- Tracy Foust- tfoust@rcsd.k12.ny.us. Call 518-436-8561 , Extension: 3401

Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 - Albany

Albany's Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 programs are offered in community locations throughout the city. A child must be three years old by December 1 of the enrolling school year in order to qualify for the Pre-K 3 program. A child must be four years old by December 1 of the enrolling school year in order to qualify for a pre-K 4 program.

Please note that Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 registration is a two part process.

Step 1: Apply for a seat

You can apply at any time, however, the school district encourages families to apply through the Pre-k 3 and Pre-K 4 lotteries held each year. Applications received outside the annual lottery window will be processed based on availability. Once you have completed an application, the district will send an official notification by mail and email to the addresses you provided. You will receive one of three letters: an acceptance letter, a waiting-list letter or a waiting-pool letter.

Step 2: Accept an awarded seat and register

If you are awarded a seat and receive an acceptance notification, you must then register your child to officially accept the seat you have been offered.

Specific information for [Pre-K 3 can be found here.](#)

Specific information for [Pre-K 4 can be found here.](#)

The Pre-K options available in Rensselaer are in the elementary school and registration information should be done through the District Registrar (contact information above).



[Magnet Schools - Albany](#)

Albany magnet schools focus instruction on a particular theme and incorporates that theme across all subject areas. Magnet schools are open to children throughout the city via the process below. Please note that magnet registration is a two part process.

Step 1: Apply for a seat

You can apply at any time, however, the district encourages families to apply through the lottery held each year. Applications received outside the annual lottery window will be processed based on availability. Once you have completed an application, the district will send an official notification by mail and email to the addresses you provided. You will receive one of three letters: an acceptance letter, a waiting-list letter or a waiting-pool letter.

Step 2: Accept an awarded seat and register

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Magnet schools include:

- ▶ Albany School of Humanities (ASH) - Pre-K through Grade 5

Albany's arts and humanities theme is a multicultural approach with a focus on arts, literature and music infused throughout the school day.

In addition to art and music, ASH learners also participate in weekly theater arts and creative movement activities. The curriculum includes community-service projects and Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) events.

- ▶ Dual Language Program - Pre-K through Grade 5

During the 2021-22 school year, there is one bilingual class for each grade, first through fifth. There are two sections each of prekindergarten and Kindergarten. Prekindergarten classes have 18 seats total, nine for Spanish speakers and nine for English speakers. Grades K-5 have approximately 24 students, again evenly divided between Spanish speakers and English speakers.

Most students begin the program in pre-kindergarten. Therefore, few spots, if any, are open for older children. However, the district keeps a waiting list on the chance a seat becomes available. For more information, please contact the Magnet Schools office.

In the Dual Language Program, instructional time is divided between learning in Spanish and learning in English. Classes are integrated to promote cultural and linguistic exchanges among the students. Students learn the languages through content area instruction using grade-appropriate curriculum.

► Montessori Magnet School - Pre-K through Grade 5

This magnet school blends the philosophy and hands-on materials of Maria Montessori with the guidance provided by the New York State learning standards.

► Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology (TOAST) - Pre-K through Grade 5

The school's STEAM theme – science, technology, engineering, arts and math – is reinforced with specialized instruction in the state-of-the-art computer lab, the dedicated science room and an outdoor pavilion and geologic rock park.

Hands-on learning and community collaborations actively involve children in acquiring the skills, knowledge and attitudes required to succeed in high school, college and beyond.

Being a smaller district, Rensselaer School District does not have magnet schools. Junior and Senior High School are combined in one institution.

Middle Schools

Albany has three public middle schools, all of which serve students in grades 6 through 8:

- [North Albany Middle School](#)
- [Stephen and Harriet Myers Middle School](#)
- [William S. Hackett Middle School](#)

Rensselaer middle school-aged children attend Rensselaer Junior and Senior High School starting in the 7th grade. Information on that school below.

High Schools

[Albany High School](#) is the main high school in the city of Albany. It features four smaller learning communities, or academies: Citizenship, Discovery, Innovation and Leadership. Each academy offers the same core courses in English, math, science and social studies, and electives are grouped in relation to each academy's unique theme. However, all students are able to choose electives outside of their academy.

Also, students have the opportunity to take Albany High's Advanced Placement courses in all four academies. All students also may take courses from the International Baccalaureate program offered in Citizenship Academy.



Honors, Special Education classes and English as a New Language classes are available in every academy. While all students will be assigned to an academy, they also can take part in Abrookin Career and Technical Center programs.

Classes in physical education, band, orchestra, chorus, art and health include students from all academies.

[Rensselaer Junior and Senior High School](#) is the public school in the city of Rensselaer and goes from grades 7 through 12. It averages It has 445 students.

If you are looking to live in the Capital Region but not necessarily in Albany proper, you can see how area school districts stack up [on this rating page for area school districts](#). Top nearby districts include Bethlehem Central, Schenectady and Voorheesville Central.

Tech Valley High School

TVHS draws from public school districts of Questar III and Capital Region BOCES. Interested students apply in eighth grade and are selected by lottery.

Students interested in Tech Valley High School should contact their home school district middle school counselor. Recruiting materials and applications are available under “application documents”, and paper copies are distributed to every school district in the Tech Valley region.

Private Schools

There are multiple private school options also available for all grade levels - Preschool, Elementary, Middle, and High School.

There are a selection of private schools throughout the Albany, Rensselaer and Capital region. Many, though not all, of the private school options in the region are religiously affiliated. It is estimated that approximately 60% of private schools in the region are religiously affiliated. For the 2021 school year, there are 25 private schools serving 4,039 students in Albany, New York.

Additionally, some private schools have also undergone accreditation from the [New York State Association of Independent Schools](#).

- [The Albany Academies](#) - Albany - K-12
- [Doane Stuart School](#) - Rensselaer - K-12
- [Woodland Hill Montessori School](#) - Rensselaer - Toddler through Grade 8



Client Name
Anonymous



- [Robert C. Parker School](#) - North Greenbush (Rensselaer County) Pre-K through Grade 8
- [Susan O'Dell Taylor School](#) - Troy - Pre-K through Grade 8

Religiously-affiliated private schools in the greater capital region

- [Academy of the Holy Names](#) - Albany - Grades 6 through 12 - girls only
- [Christian Brothers Academy](#) - Albany - Grades 5 through 12 - boys only
- [Bishop Maginn High School](#) - Albany - Grades 9 through 12
- [St. Plus X School](#) - Albany - Pre-K through Grade 8
- [Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy](#) - Albany - K through Grade 8
- [Maimonides Hebrew Day School](#) - Albany - Pre-K through Grade 12
- [Blessed Sacrament School](#) - Albany - Pre-K through Grade 8
- [St. Anne Institute](#) - Albany - Pre-K through Grade 12
- [Loudonville Christian Academy](#) - Loudonville - Pre-K-12
- [Mekeel Christian Academy](#) - Scotia - Pre-K-12
- [Annur Islamic School](#) - Schenectady - Pre-K-12