

2020-2021 Application Requirements for Merrimack Valley-Area High Schools

School Name	Testing Required	Application Used	Application Deadline	Financial Aid Deadline	Additional Application Requirements or Notes	Interview Requirements	Shadow Day Requirements
Abbott Lawrence Academy – Lawrence, MA	Live-proctored remote exam (writing, STEM) in lieu of ISEE	Online School Application Form		N/A	Short Answer/Essay Questions Transcripts Teacher Recommendations (STEM and Humanities teachers)	N/A	Complete shadow form online
Austin Preparatory School – Reading, MA	SSAT, ISEE, or HSPT	Online School Application Form SAO also accepted	December 15	December 15	Inquiry form completed first Transcripts Teacher Recommendations	School Visit for New Applicants	Optional
Brooks School – North Andover, MA	SSAT (note: applications for 2021-22 school year: test optional, no penalty for opting out of testing)	GPS or SAO	January 15	January 15	Inquiry form completed first Transcripts Teacher Recommendations	Required (done virtually); contact school to set up appointment: (978) 725-6271 or (978) 725-6272	Optional; opportunity to take a virtual tour with current student
Central Catholic High School – Lawrence, MA	HSPT and/or SSAT	Online school application or SAO	December 7	December 7	Inquiry Form Transcripts Teacher recommendations Virtual Open House	N/A	Virtual tour

School Name	Testing Required	Application Used	Application Deadline	Financial Aid Deadline	Additional Application Requirements or Notes	Interview Requirements	Shadow Day Requirements
The Governor's Academy – Newbury, MA	SSAT or ISEE; test optional for applicants to 2021-22 school year	SAO, Gateway, A Better Chance (ABC), or school application	January 15 (day); January 31 (boarding)	First form due December 31	Inquiry Form Transcripts Teacher recommendations Personal recommendations	Required (done virtually); contact Office Manager to set up appointment	Virtual tour
Greater Lawrence Technical School – Andover, MA	N/A	Online or paper (by request) school application	February 1	N/A	Documentation of grades, discipline, attendance) Counselor recommendation	N/A	Virtual tour available
Groton School – Groton, MA	SSAT is preferred, but ISEE is accepted; Test optional for applicants to 2021-22 school year; all applicants must provide sample of recent work in mathematics	Gateway	January 15	January 15	Inquiry form Candidate profile Candidate statement Parent statement School report Transcripts Teacher recommendations (English, Math) Personal recommendation Graded writing sample Graded math sample	Contact admissions office	Virtual tour available

School Name	Testing Required	Application Used	Application Deadline	Financial Aid Deadline	Additional Application Requirements or Notes	Interview Requirements	Shadow Day Requirements
Lawrence Academy – Groton, MA	SSAT optional for applicants to the 2021-22 school year	SAO or Gateway	January 15	January 31	Inquiry form completed first Transcripts Teacher recommendations Counselor or principal recommendation	Required; held via Zoom	Encouraged to virtually tour campus before interview
Lawrence High School 9 th Grade Academy – Lawrence, MA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Milton Academy – Milton, MA	Testing optional for 2021-22 applications; SSAT and ISEE accepted	Gateway or SSAT standard application	January 15	January 31	Inquiry form Parent statement Writing sample Teacher and administrator recommendations Transcripts	Required (and via Zoom); contact school set up appointment	Virtual tour
Noble and Greenough School – Dedham, MA	SSAT; due to COVID-19, both at-home and/or remote testing are accepted	Ravenna	January 15	January 15	Student statement Extracurricular activities statement Parent statement Teacher recommendations Transcripts	Required; register online	Virtual tour
Notre Dame Cristo Rey High School – Lawrence, MA	High School Placement Test	Online school application	December 11 (priority applications)	December 11 (priority applications)	Income tax documents Teacher recommendations (English, Math)	Virtual interviews (take place in January)	(Shadow days previously held; unclear if currently being held)

School Name	Testing Required	Application Used	Application Deadline	Financial Aid Deadline	Additional Application Requirements or Notes	Interview Requirements	Shadow Day Requirements
Phillips Academy – Andover, MA	SSAT or ISEE (test optional)	Gateway	February 1	February 1	Join mailing list Transcripts Recent writing assignment Parent statement Teacher recommendations (English, Math) Personal recommendation Counselor recommendation	Schedule interview online; must request interview time through self-service portal by January 15	Schedule tour online
Phillips Exeter Academy – Exeter, NH	Test optional in 2021-22; SSAT or ISEE	Gateway	January 15	January 31	Request information / online inquiry form Principal / counselor recommendation Teacher recommendations (English, Math) Personal recommendation	Required; must be scheduled by February 1	
Pingree School – Hamilton, MA	SSAT or ISEE	SAO	January 15	January 15	Inquiry form Transcripts Recommendation forms	Required	Tour prior to interview
St. John's Prep – Danvers, MA	HSPT, SSAT, or ISEE (all optional for 2021-22 applicants)	SAO	January 4 (priority deadline)	January 4 (priority deadline)	Virtual information session Inquiry form Parent statement Teacher recommendations (English, Math)	Optional	Virtual tours and webinars

Glossary of Terms

Online Applications:

GPS – Gateway to Prep Schools online application: <https://www.gatewaytoprepschools.com/>

Online School Application – a school’s own online application form found on their Admissions website

Printed School Application -a school’s own paper application form

SAO – Standard Application Online: <https://ssat.org/sao>

Ravenna – Ravenna Online Application: <https://www.ravenna-hub.com/login>

High School Application Exams:

HSPT – High School Placement Test (often used by Catholic high schools): <https://stsusers.com/stsusers/registration/static/boston.php>

ISEE – Independent School Entrance Exam: <https://www.erblearn.org/parents/isee-overview>

SSAT – Secondary School Admission Test: <https://ssat.org/>

Other Requirements:

Inquiry Form – an online form on the school’s Admission website that allows applicants to express interest in applying

Transcripts – an official record of grades from an applicant’s middle school

Teacher Recommendation – a letter from a teacher expressing an applicant’s academic ability and work habits

Personal Recommendation – a letter from someone who knows the applicant well (not a relative) that can speak to their qualities and characteristics outside of the classroom; could be a coach, mentor, family friend, etc.

The Character Skills Snapshot – an online assessment that measures different qualities: <https://ssat.org/snapshot> (a student SSAT account must be created to register for this assessment)

Interviews:

An *interview* is usually conducted by a member of the Admissions Office, an alumni (graduate) of the school, or a faculty or staff member of the school. They will ask the applicant questions about many topics, including their family and background, their academic and extracurricular interests, and why they are applying to the school. It is also an opportunity for the applicant to ask questions about the school and what it is like to be a student there.

Tours and Shadow Days:

These on-campus experiences allow an applicant to see and explore the campus in different ways. *Tours*, typically conducted by a student trained to work in the Admissions Office, will walk an applicant and their family around the campus and point out specific aspects of the school’s facilities and features. *Shadow Days* allow an applicant to spend time following a student through their daily schedule and experience classes and free time alongside that person.