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## Niche unveils top public high schools in the Phoenix area

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Some of Arizona's best charter schools dominated Niche's list of top public high schools in the Phoenix area.

With roughly 230,000 students attending nearly 560 public charter schools in Arizona, the charter school movement continues to gain traction in the state.

"We know Arizona's public charter schools are doing outstanding work every day for students, but it's always gratifying to see that performance independently validated," said Jake Logan, president and CEO of Arizona Charter Schools Association. "Results like these help demonstrate why Arizona public charter enrollment is growing so quickly, up 60% in the past decade alone."

For example, Great Hearts, one top scoring charter school has a wait list of nearly 8,000 students.



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Niche ranked the Valley's best public high schools for 2022.

***Click on the gallery below to see a countdown of the top public high schools in the Valley, leading up to the top school on the list.***

Great Hearts, a Phoenix-based charter school that scored well on the Niche list, can't build schools fast enough to keep up with demand.

"We try to address high wait lists by building Great Hearts schools in areas where they exist and do not necessarily consider wait lists a positive or viable metric for determining a school's value," said Erik Twist, president of Great Hearts' Arizona market.

Its 2021 graduating class of seniors were awarded \$58.85 million in merit-based scholarships, with 93% of its 689 graduates in Arizona and Texas going on to immediately attend college.

Great Hearts — which serves more than 22,000 students at 37 schools in Arizona and Texas — is in the midst of a \$53.1 million expansion in metro Phoenix that includes a new school in Buckeye, a replacement school in Anthem and an expansion of an existing school in Goodyear.

This is the eighth year Niche has been ranking its K-12 schools across the country, said Natalie Tsay, spokeswoman for Niche.

"Part of our company mission is to make researching schools easy because we know a lot of the time it's convoluted and time consuming," she said. "By pulling data from numerous sources and utilizing our millions of user ratings, we create rankings that take more than just academic performance into consideration. The Best Schools rankings are intended to be a valuable and insightful starting point for families looking to choose a school."

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