2026 HiMCM
Problem A: The City Showdown: Modeling the Best City to Live In



Image credit: Adobe Express

What makes a city great for a **high schooler** to live in?

Your team is tasked to develop a mathematical model that identifies The Best City for a high schooler to live in according to the criteria that you select and justify. Discuss criteria your team considered but chose to leave out. Gather and cite as much relevant data as reasonably available. Apply the model using the available data and discuss any limitations. Ensure your model ranks at least ten cities and produces a well-reasoned conclusion about which is best, based on your own definition.

How would your ranking system convince others that it is not just your opinion, but has merit to establish a ranking? Document at least one significant revision to your model that may convince more people of the usefulness of your ranking and explain the reasoning behind the change.

Write a one-to-two-page non-technical news article for COMAP's The Best City for a High Schooler. It should include your modeling process.

Your PDF solution of no more than 25 total pages should include:

- One-page Summary Sheet.
- Table of Contents.
- Your complete solution.
- One-to-two-page non-technical news article for COMAP.
- References list.
- Report on Use of AI Tools (If used does not count toward the 25-page limit.).

Glossary:

High schooler – A student, typically ages 14-18, enrolled in the final years of secondary education before higher education, university, or entry into the workforce.

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