



AIKEN COUNTY

PUBLIC SCHOOLS



WHY AIKEN COUNTY?

Aiken County offers lower housing costs and lower taxes than all surrounding counties, as well as a great quality of life.

Learn more on Pages 2-3



WHY AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

We are the emerging premier school district in South Carolina. We offer every child a pathway to succeed that is individualized for that child.

Learn more on Pages 4-7



DID

WHY AIKEN COUNTY?

Aiken County has...



Lower housing costs than surrounding areas.
The average home value is currently \$188,776.

The median home price in October 2017,
according to the Board of Realtors, was \$162,750.



Lower property taxes than surrounding areas.
Average Aiken County property taxes are
\$733.96 per year.

By comparison - taxes on a \$200,000 house in:

Aiken County, SC

\$777.60

Columbia County, GA

\$2,234.96 (187% more than Aiken County)

Richmond County, GA

\$2,426.56 (212% more than Aiken County)

*Lexington County, SC

\$1,036.46 (33% more than Aiken County)

**Lexington County has 5 districts and this
represents the average of those 5 districts.*

YOU

Quality of Life

There's always something to do in Aiken County!

- ✓ Aiken has been named the "Best Small Town in the South" by *Southern Living* Magazine
- ✓ Hitchcock Woods is in the center of Aiken and has 70 miles of sandy walking, running, and horse trails.
- ✓ The Greenway in North Augusta is a 7-mile paved recreational trail.
- ✓ Cultural activities abound, including the Etheredge Center at USC Aiken.
- ✓ Fun festivals exist throughout the year in many towns in Aiken County.
- ✓ Municipal and county recreation departments offer numerous competitive sports opportunities.
- ✓ The newly developed Riverside Village in North Augusta is home to the Augusta Green Jackets minor-league baseball stadium, as well as restaurants and shopping.
- ✓ Aiken and North Augusta both have splash parks and public playgrounds.
- ✓ Downtown Aiken hosts a vibrant downtown and renovated Alley, which hosts one-of-a-kind shops, festivals, a concert series, and a variety of restaurants.
- ✓ Kayak or canoe at Aiken State Park, Langley Pond, or on the nearby Savannah River.

Just a two-hour drive to the coast, or a two-hour drive to the mountains. We are a short drive to Augusta, GA, home of the Augusta National Master's Golf Tournament, and the capital of SC, Columbia. Both offer additional recreational opportunities for your family.



KNOW?

Higher Education

Aiken County is home to both a two-year technical college and a four-year comprehensive university. Residents of SC are eligible for in-state tuition rates and may be eligible for state scholarships through the South Carolina State Lottery. Aiken County Public Schools partners with both institutions to offer dual enrollment classes for students.

Aiken Technical College (ATC) offers a variety of academic programs, as well as several university transfer programs for Associate in Arts or Science degrees, for those wishing to continue their education at a four-year institution. ATC offers numerous educational opportunities in university transfer, health, public service, business, industrial technology, engineering technology, nuclear technology, and computer technology. One of ATC's most recognizable partnerships with business and industry is the Technical Scholars Initiative. Technical Scholars is a concentrated effort in partnership with business and industry to recruit, educate, and graduate technicians in fields where workforce shortages exist. Learn more about ATC at www.atc.edu.

University of South Carolina Aiken (USC Aiken) offers 45 undergraduate majors and several masters degree programs. USC Aiken has been ranked #1 by *U.S. News and World Report* for Southern Public Regional Universities 13 of the last 20 years. USC Aiken is ranked in the Top 100 Universities in the Nation by the highly regarded *Military Times*. USC Aiken was just recently named a College of Distinction, one of only three public universities to be recognized in South Carolina.

USC Aiken is also one of the most affordable four-year universities in South Carolina. A 16:1 student-faculty ratio allows for highly engaged pedagogies and supports a commitment to active learning through excellence in teaching, undergraduate research, scholarship, and civic engagement. With a population of 3500 students, USC Aiken provides all the benefits of a large university, such as 11 NCAA Division 2 sports teams and numerous club/intramural sports, yet offers students personal attention. Learn more about USC Aiken at www.usca.edu.



Health Care

Aiken Regional Medical Centers is a 245-bed hospital located in the heart of Aiken. Aiken County is a short driving distance to University Health Care System, Augusta University Health System, Doctors' Hospital of Augusta, and Eisenhower Army Medical Center.



WHY AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

The Aiken County community is invested in public education. Through taxpayer support, we are building new schools and renovating others to ensure a 21st century learning environment for all students.



Our students excel in academics

We have increased the number of students taking AP classes by 77% in one year and have seen a 30% increase in named AP scholars. We had 614 students earn college credit through AP classes in 2017, a 47% increase from the year before.

We've seen an increase of 5% in South Carolina Junior Scholars, with 92 8th graders being named this past year.

Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) scholars were awarded to 19% of our 7th grade students, who scored 95% or higher on grade-level standardized testing.



Our students excel in sports

Our schools have produced state champions over the last two years in many sports including:

Girls' Basketball • Girls' Soccer
Boys' Tennis • Girls' Swimming
Girls' Volleyball • Boys' Basketball

2016-2017 Midland Valley's Athletics Director Michelle Yeater was named statewide Athletic Director of the Year by the S.C. Athletic Coaches Association (SCACA).

2016-2017 Aiken High School's Varsity Girls' Volleyball head coach Malynda Young and South Aiken High School's Varsity Girls' Soccer head coach David Milhoulides were named Class AAAA Coaches of the Year by the S.C. Athletic Coaches Association (SCASA).

In 2016, Aiken High student Frelicia Tucker was the national Wendy's High School Heisman Award winner, based on academics, athletics, and community service.

In 2017, South Aiken High student Reid Bolen was named the statewide Wendy's High School Heisman Award winner.

School Choice

It is our desire that your student be in an educational environment most suited to his or her learning and individual achievement. While it is our hope that the school to which your student is zoned is your school of choice, there are options and opportunities for transfer should that be of interest or need to your student and family. There are also several magnet programs, including East Aiken School of the Arts, Jackson STEM Middle School, and New Ellenton STEAM Middle School, which are available to students and families as space is available. Information about school choice and applications for the various options are available on our website, www.acpsd.net.

**We have a PATH for all students,
no matter what choice they make**

ARMED SERVICES

WORKFORCE



FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITY OR TWO-YEAR TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Four-year university or Two-year technical college

40% of our students were recognized as honor graduates last year. They were awarded almost \$60 million in scholarships. Our dual enrollment programs with USC Aiken and Aiken Tech give our students a jump-start at college. Aiken Scholars Academy at USC Aiken allows accepted students to gain up to two years of college credit while in high school.

Armed Services

Strong support for JROTC in our high schools allows those interested in a military career an early start. Our proximity to Fort Gordon's Cyber Center of Command makes our schools military-friendly. We are building a strong cyber curriculum in partnership with USC Aiken and Aiken Tech, and many schools have competition performing Cyber Patriot Teams.

Workforce

We believe in giving our students the opportunity to test different career options to determine their interests and give them on-the-job experiences to ensure that youth gain professional skills and work-related competencies. Our Aiken Works program currently has registered apprenticeships with AECOM, Gregory Electric, Peach State Federal Credit Union, Bridgestone, Security Federal, Graniteville Specialty Fabrics, and MTU, among others. We are constantly adding other opportunities for our students with local manufacturers and businesses, including job shadowing and internships.



ABOUT US

24,829 students in 42 schools.

61 percent of our teachers have advanced degrees.

90 percent of our students graduate in four years.

91 percent of our students were accepted to a two or four-year college.

We have:

20

ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS

11

MIDDLE
SCHOOLS

7

HIGH
SCHOOLS

3

CHARTER
SCHOOLS

1

CAREER +
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Aiken Area Schools

- ✓ Aiken Elementary
- ✓ Chukker Creek Elementary
- ✓ East Aiken Elementary School of the Arts
- ✓ J.D. Lever Elementary
- ✓ Millbrook Elementary
- ✓ North Aiken Elementary
- ✓ Oakwood-Windsor Elementary
- ✓ Aiken Middle
- ✓ Kennedy Middle
- ✓ Schofield Middle
- ✓ Aiken High
- ✓ South Aiken High

Midland Valley Area Schools

- ✓ Byrd Elementary
- ✓ Clearwater Elementary
- ✓ Gloverville Elementary
- ✓ Jefferson Elementary
- ✓ Warrentonville Elementary
- ✓ Langley-Bath-Clearwater Middle
- ✓ Leavelle McCampbell Middle
- ✓ Midland Valley High

New Ellenton/Jackson Area Schools

- ✓ Greendale Elementary
- ✓ Redcliffe Elementary
- ✓ Jackson Middle
- ✓ New Ellenton Middle
- ✓ Silver Bluff High

North Augusta Area Schools

- ✓ Belvedere Elementary
- ✓ Hammond Hill Elementary
- ✓ Mossy Creek Elementary
- ✓ North Augusta Elementary
- ✓ North Augusta Middle
- ✓ Paul Knox Middle
- ✓ North Augusta High

Wagener/Ridge Spring/Monetta Area Schools

- ✓ Busbee Elementary
- ✓ Ridge Spring-Monetta Elementary
- ✓ A.L. Corbett Middle
- ✓ Ridge Spring-Monetta Middle
- ✓ Ridge Spring-Monetta High
- ✓ Wagener-Salley High



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GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAMS

The Aiken County Public School District uses models approved by the South Carolina Department of Education. Classes are taught by teachers with a Gifted and Talented (GT) endorsement.

In order to qualify for placement in the academically gifted and talented program through the state's criteria, a student must meet the eligibility criteria in two of the following three dimensions: Aptitude, Achievement, and Academic Performance.

Programming for Aiken County's gifted and talented education includes a variety of options, including acceleration, enrichment, and in-depth study of some curriculum. Teachers who work with

these students are carefully selected and trained to work in the area of gifted education. In grades 3-5, students participate in rigorous coursework through deeper study of English language arts and accelerated curriculum in mathematics. In grades 6-8, students experience challenging coursework through advanced classes in English, math, science, and social studies. At the high school level, students participate in classes designated at the Honors or Advanced Placement level.

For more information, contact Kim Livingston at klivingston@acpsd.net or (803) 641-2655.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Aiken County Department of Special Programs meets the individual needs of students ages three through twenty-one who are eligible for special education and related services, in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

A full continuum of services is available, ranging from the least restrictive to more restrictive environments, depending on the specific needs of the student.

The department also supports schools in ensuring students with disabilities appropriately access the

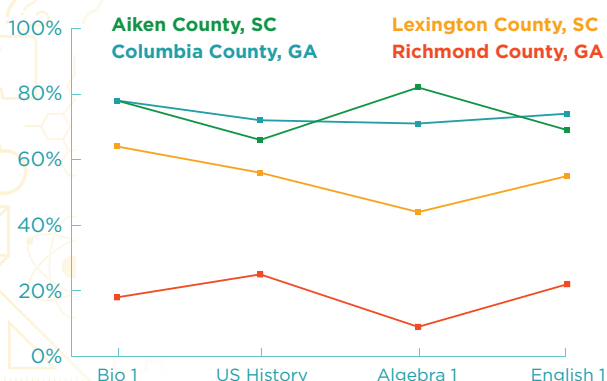
grade-level standards and provides specialized instruction as determined necessary by the individualized education plan (IEP). In collaboration with students, schools, families, and the community, the Department of Special Programs assists students with disabilities in increasing academic performance and enhancing postsecondary options.

For more information, contact Cassie Cagle, Director of Special Programs, at ccagle@acpsd.net or 803-641-2624 ex 12303.

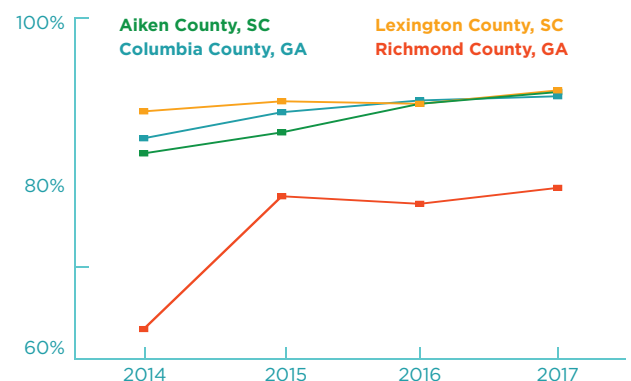
HOW DO WE COMPARE

We can provide prospective students' families with any data regarding our schools, and offer individualized tours, so you can make the right choice for your child. We encourage families to look at well-sourced data provided by the SC Dept. of Education and GA Dept. of Education.

Our End of Course scores are comparable, or higher than surrounding counties:



Our 4-year graduation rates are increasing yearly, and currently stand at 90%:



THEMATIC ACCELERATED PROGRAMS

All high schools offer advanced courses and ever-growing numbers of AP courses.
All high schools offer dual enrollment classes at USC Aiken or Aiken Technical College.
All of our schools have a strong STEM focus, preparing our students for a successful future. Thematic Programs at each school include

Aiken High School is South Carolina's first Cambridge International School. It will offer every student in the school the flexibility and rigor of an International curriculum in pursuing a Cambridge diploma or taking college credit courses. Aiken High is ranked among *US News and World Reports'* Best High Schools in America.

Midland Valley High School partners with Aiken Technical College (ATC) in an Early College Program. Students apply as freshmen to enroll in college courses offered through ATC, and ultimately graduate high school with both a high school diploma and an associate's degree.

North Augusta High School is a National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) Advanced Placement Academy. The goal of the academy is to create a culture of inclusion in AP courses, while removing barriers to students who have been traditionally under-represented. North Augusta High continues to grow its AP class offerings and number of qualifying scores yearly. NAHS is one of the few schools in the state to offer the prestigious, nationally recognized Capstone Diploma.

Ridge Spring-Monetta High School is a Farm-to-Table Healthy Living School, utilizing the core competencies of health science, agriculture, and business Career and Technology Education (CATE) programs to maximize student career and post-secondary educational experiences and opportunities. RSM offers eight college credit dual enrollment courses through Aiken Technical College.

Silver Bluff High School serves as an Academy for Technology, Engineering, and the Arts (ATEA) and is Aiken County's newest National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) school. SBHS provides instruction that excites and interests students of all backgrounds by using the integration of technology, engineering, and arts curriculums to further advance and diversify course offerings. Silver Bluff is a Palmetto Gold School for student achievement and is ranked among *US News and World Reports'* Best High Schools in America.

South Aiken High School is a National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) Advanced Placement Academy. Expanded access to AP courses, academic pep rallies, student initiatives, and AP study sessions led by national experts help students succeed in earning college credit. South Aiken was recently awarded the National Blue Ribbon Award for exemplary high school performance.

Wagener-Salley High School is an Academy of Leadership and Military Science. This focus is based on a long tradition of leadership training in JROTC and agricultural education programs, which include an FFA Leadership Development Program in its curriculum.

Aiken Scholars Academy opens on the campus of USC Aiken in August 2018. Students must apply prior to their ninth grade year and 50 students are accepted to this highly competitive program. Students who complete four years at the academy will have the opportunity to receive up to 48 college credit hours without cost to the student or family.

Aiken High School



North Augusta High School



Leavelle McCampbell Middle School





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CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

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