



AIKEN COUNTY

PUBLIC SCHOOLS



WHY SOUTH CAROLINA?

Benefits exist to currently enlisted military families and veterans in the state of South Carolina that don't exist in other states.

Learn more on Page 2



WHY AIKEN COUNTY?

Aiken County offers lower housing costs, lower taxes, short commute times to Fort Gordon, and a great quality of life.

Learn more on Pages 2-3



WHY AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

We are a military-friendly school system. We promise to do everything in our power to make the transition to our schools seamless.

Learn more on Pages 4-7

DID



WHY SOUTH CAROLINA?

In South Carolina...



Military Retirement pay is not subject to SC state taxes up to a certain amount, with legislation pending to make it completely state tax-free.



SC law requires that veterans be given preference for employment in public departments or public works.



Discounted in-state tuition rates are available for all military personnel at USC system universities (Active, Reserve, and Guard), and, in-state tuition rates for military family members, waiving the normal one-year residency requirement at all state colleges.



If you live in South Carolina, your child may be eligible for in-state tuition and state scholarships through the South Carolina State Lottery. This includes all state colleges, including the Citadel, USC Aiken, and Aiken Tech.



All grocery store items that are unprepared food are exempt from state sales and use tax.

YOU

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.



Short commute times to
Fort Gordon from Aiken County:

North Augusta

16 miles, 25 minutes

Midland Valley

24 miles, 32 minutes

New Ellenton/Jackson

27 miles, 39 minutes

City of Aiken

35 miles, 40 minutes



KNOW?

Quality of Life

There's always something to do in Aiken County!

- ✓ Hitchcock Woods in the center of Aiken with 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 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.

Higher Education

Aiken County is home to both a two-year comprehensive college and a four-year comprehensive university.

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 has been designated as a Military Friendly College for seven consecutive years. For more information, contact Deborah Key at (803) 508-7333 or keyd@atc.edu.

University of South Carolina Aiken (USC Aiken) offers 45 undergraduate majors and several masters degree programs. USC Aiken is ranked in the Top 100 Universities in the Nation by the highly regarded *Military Times*. USC Aiken is also the number one ranked Best for Vets University in South Carolina. Aiken County Veteran Council is a consolidated veteran services organization and USC Aiken works alongside this organization. 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 also has a DOD sanctioned daycare center on its campus with reduced rates for military families. For more information, contact Robert Murphy at (803) 641-3582 or rmurphy@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, Medical College of Georgia, Doctors' Hospital of Augusta, and Eisenhower Army Medical Center. Aiken hosts a wide selection of TRICARE Providers, Primary Care Managers as well as TRICARE Dental Providers



WHY AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

"We are a military-friendly school system. We know military families have unique needs, and we are committed to meeting those needs and exceeding your expectations."

Dr. Sean Alford

Aiken County Public Schools' Superintendent

Our commitment to you. We will:



Assign a student ambassador to your child to make them feel welcome and help them learn about their new school.



Get your child enrolled in classes as soon as possible. Bring us your transcripts before the official ones arrive to get your child enrolled quickly in the classes they need.



Work to see that your child gets credits transferred so they don't need to re-take classes.



Work to get your child enrolled in extracurricular activities, even if the period has passed to join, in order for them to develop a sense of belonging at their new school.



Honor the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children (the Compact)



Assign your family a personal contact at the school to support with transition and ongoing success.



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.

80 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

North Augusta Area Schools

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

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

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



AIKEN COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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 GT endorsement. GT classes have special class designation with a student to teacher ratio of 25:1.

Gifted and talented students are identified through a multi-step process, established by the South Carolina Department of Education.

All second grade students are tested with a nationally normed aptitude and achievement test in the fall. Students in other grades are screened based on any new data less than two years old. No private testing may be accepted for consideration, but may be used for referral purposes. Teachers, parents, and administrators may refer a student for screening at any time during the school year.

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.

Aiken County Public Schools also uses locally-established criteria to identify and serve students who are high-achieving in grades 3-8. Students qualify based on standardized test scores and academic achievement data.

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. Our department serves over 3,100 students by a faculty and staff of over 250 teachers, therapists and other specialists who are trained to provide specifically designed instruction and services designed to meet individual needs of children identified as having disabilities.

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

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.**

Thematic Programs at each high 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.





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PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

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