



The Littlest Giants

Small and medium-sized locations in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia and Kentucky
with the best rated K-12 educational systems



With this report, Southern Business & Development gives those looking for sites for manufacturing or service projects in the South the K-12 school systems that are graded by Pittsburgh-based research firm Niche as A+ to A-. All of these markets in the South are under 750,000 in city/county population.

Niche's 2020 Best School Districts ranking is based on rigorous analysis of academic and student life data from the U.S. Department of Education, along with test scores, college data and ratings collected from millions of Niche users.

Education, particularly K-12, is becoming increasingly important. Growing school districts in each state are vital to employers in order to back-fill labor years from now. And data shows that most excellent school systems, like the ones listed here, are growing while sub-par school systems are not.

In an age where available labor is virtually non-existent, this data of growing, A-rated K-12 schools are incredibly important to site searchers in the economic development process. In fact, last year,

10,000 people on average retired per day and only 2,230 people per day in the U.S. turned working age (16).

The schools listed here are local school systems in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia and Kentucky that were rated with an A score from Niche. They are ranked in order of their Niche score, however, they all received a score of A+, A, or A-.

FLORIDA

St. Johns County School District

St. Augustine, Fla.

(St. Johns County)

Florida's St. Johns County has consistently been recognized as the state's top-ranked public school district. The St. Johns County School District has received a grade of "A" consecutively since 2010 from the Florida Department of Education. The district's success can be contributed to a focus on exceeding educational standards and utilizing best practices to prepare and inspire the county's youth and residents to follow successful career paths.

The school system prepares students to become highly skilled professionals in diverse and emerging industries such as information technology, advanced manufacturing, aviation/aerospace, financial services and more, supporting the county's local manufacturers and businesses. Notable companies that call St. Johns County home are Northrop Grumman, Carlisle Interconnect Technology, Rulon International, D.R. Horton and Flagler Health+. St. Johns County is also home to the corporate headquarters of the PGA TOUR, ATP Tour and THE PLAYERS Championship at TPC Sawgrass.

The school district provides career, technical and adult education through its career academies and technical college to adapt to the changing needs of the students, employers and workforce. The school district works closely with post-secondary educational institutions such as Flagler College, St. Johns River State College, First Coast Technical College and more to offer programming that creates a skilled workforce for the county's growing business population.

With talented, well-educated residents as well as a great quality of life, multi-modal transportation network, growing regional airport and Foreign Trade Zone designation linked to nearby JAXPORT, St. Johns County is an ideal location for businesses to call home.

This excerpt shares the portion of the article that references St. Johns County, Florida. The counties were listed in each state based on the order of the Niche score received, and St. Johns County was ranked first in Florida.