



Laurens County's Higher Education

High-quality, educational facilities and institutions provide the business community with a work force that is skilled on all levels. Our South Carolina State "Blue Ribbon" designated, county public school system is complemented by the Laurens County Higher Education Center. This 39,000 square foot facility opened in April 2002 to serve students residing in Laurens County and to provide a home to Piedmont Technical College, USC-Union and the Laurens County Adult Education organization.

Students at the facility have the opportunity to earn high school, associate and bachelor degree credit in traditional classroom settings and via satellite or two-way video. Collegiate and public school officials have established relationships with corporate leaders, resulting in the creation of curricula relevant to the needs of the business community.

Presbyterian College

Presbyterian College is a four-year private co-educational liberal arts institution located in Clinton. Accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA).

PC's student population of 1,200 is comprised of many of the best and brightest students in the southeast who enjoy bachelor's degree programs in 29 fields of major study and pre-professional programs in dentistry, law, medicine, pharmacy, the ministry, veterinary science, Army ROTC, physical therapy, and allied health sciences.

Presbyterian College has consistently been recognized as one of the top 25 liberal arts institutions in U.S. by Washington Monthly magazine based on its graduates' contributions to society.



Located in the state's hub of established manufacturing and research, Laurens County, South Carolina, is where you want to be. Just 45 minutes from the Greenville/Spartanburg metro area and three hours from Charleston, SC, the second largest port on the east coast, the state's network of interstate highways extends the reach of businesses in Laurens County to a large percentage of all U.S. consumers.

Laurens County is home to 23,000 workers who offer a wide array of skills, experience and education to meet most any manufacturing need. Both state and county one-stop training programs are available to assist companies with training or retraining workers. In addition, South Carolina is a Right-to-Work State, and has one of the lowest unionization, work stoppage, and litigation rankings in the country.

Education & Economic Development in Laurens County



LaurensFirst
& Clinton Economic Development Corp.
Supporting education and
economic development in Laurens County





Laurens County School District 55 and School District 56 are both longtime partners of local business and industry and are on the cutting edge of public education offerings.

School District 55

The 6,300-student School District 55 places an emphasis on choice, from Montessori programs available for grades 3K-8 and single-gender classes at the middle school level, to virtual school for middle and high school students and twilight school as an alternative at the high school level. School media centers are open twice weekly during the summer months to encourage family literacy and learning reading and each school has a full-time literacy coach on staff.

Together, E.B. Morse, Ford, Hickory Tavern, Gray Court-Owings, Laurens and Waterloo Elementary Schools serve students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade with traditional and Montessori instruction. Full-day 4-year-old kindergarten and extended daycare programs are offered along with literacy and character education programs. Parent-Teacher Organizations are also active in all six elementary schools.

The four middle schools in Laurens County School District 55 emphasize the importance of teaching technology along with the tangibles to prepare students in the middle grades for higher-level achievement in the years to come. Gray Court-Owings Middle, Hickory Tavern Middle, Laurens Middle and Sanders Middle serve students in grades 6-8 and offer virtual math classrooms, interactive whiteboards and after-school and extended day programs. Extracurricular activities for middle school students include Academic Challenge Teams and Student Government Association, Library Cadet and Walking Club, along with acclaimed chorus, band and strings programs.

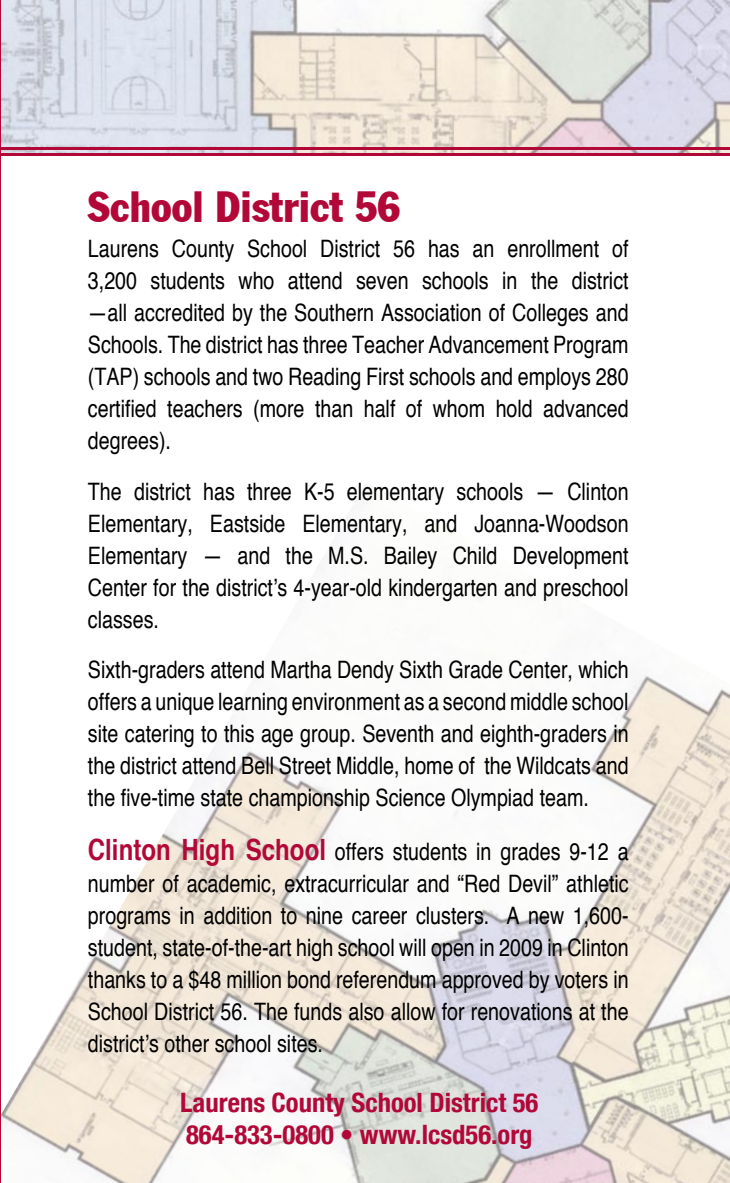
Laurens County School District 55
864-984-3568
www.laurens55.k12.sc.us

Laurens District 55 High School, an NAEP award winner for educational achievement and an NACES-approved testing site for the certified nursing assistant program, serves 1,600 students in grades 9-12.

Laurens High offers award-winning programs in the arts and sciences and features more than a dozen career clusters for students to choose as part of South Carolina's Education and Economic Development Act.

Welding, building construction and automotive technology students compete annually in Skills USA competitions at the regional and state levels and Project Lead the Way has continued to grow over the years to produce the first graduating class of pre-engineering students.

The AAAA Raiders athletic program fields 15 teams, including state-championship winning football and boys and girls basketball teams.



School District 56

Laurens County School District 56 has an enrollment of 3,200 students who attend seven schools in the district — all accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The district has three Teacher Advancement Program (TAP) schools and two Reading First schools and employs 280 certified teachers (more than half of whom hold advanced degrees).

The district has three K-5 elementary schools — Clinton Elementary, Eastside Elementary, and Joanna-Woodson Elementary — and the M.S. Bailey Child Development Center for the district's 4-year-old kindergarten and preschool classes.

Sixth-graders attend Martha Dendy Sixth Grade Center, which offers a unique learning environment as a second middle school site catering to this age group. Seventh and eighth-graders in the district attend Bell Street Middle, home of the Wildcats and the five-time state championship Science Olympiad team.

Clinton High School offers students in grades 9-12 a number of academic, extracurricular and "Red Devil" athletic programs in addition to nine career clusters. A new 1,600-student, state-of-the-art high school will open in 2009 in Clinton thanks to a \$48 million bond referendum approved by voters in School District 56. The funds also allow for renovations at the district's other school sites.

Laurens County School District 56
864-833-0800 • www.lcsd56.org

Laurens Academy

Laurens County is home to several private, Christian schools, the largest of which is Laurens Academy. Founded in 1994, Laurens Academy offers a 4K through 12th-grade college preparatory curriculum with a non-denominational Christian emphasis. Accredited by the South Carolina Independent School Association, the school offers visual and choral arts, foreign language, computer lab, competitive athletics and dual enrollment courses for college credit.

Laurens Academy
864-682-2324 • www.laurensacademy.com