

Coordinating Housing with Education



BACKGROUND

Overview of GreatSchools

MISSION: To help parents become more effective champions of education in their homes and communities

The screenshot shows the GreatSchools website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the GreatSchools logo and tagline "Involved parents. Successful kids." The main navigation menu includes "Home", "Find a School", "Preschool", "Elementary School", "Middle School", and "High School". Below this, there are sub-navigation options for "Health & Development", "Academics & Activities", "Special Education", "Improve Your School", and "Choose the Right School". A search bar is located at the top right, with a dropdown menu for "CO" and a "Search" button. The main content area features a large image of a young boy with a backpack, followed by a "Welcome to GreatSchools!" message. Below this, there is a section titled "Your child's progress" with a row of buttons for "Preschool", "Kindergarten", "1st", "2nd", "3rd", "4th", "5th", "Middle School", and "High School". On the right side, there are several featured sections: "Start here: Find a school" with a search bar, "Compare schools near an address:" with a dropdown for "elementary schools" and a "Near: ZIP code" field, and "Top 10 Large U.S. Cities with Quality Schools 2010" with a list of cities: 1. Raleigh, NC; 2. Colorado Springs, CO; 3. Mesa, AZ; 4. Honolulu, HI; 5. Virginia Beach, VA. At the bottom right, there is a section for "SUPPORT FOR GREATSCHOOLS IS PROVIDED BY:" featuring a Chevrolet Traverse advertisement.

- Founded in 1998 Bill Jackson
- Bill was driven by his vision to help parents choose the right school for their children and to hold schools accountable for their performance by making their data transparent and readily accessible.
- Organization of 55 Employees, Headquartered in San Francisco with local programs in Milwaukee and D.C.
- A national 501(c)3 nonprofit organization supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates, Walton Family and Robertson Foundations and others.

We provide online tools to help parents choose schools...

	SCHOOL NAME	GREATSCHOOLS RATING	COMMUNITY RATING
<input type="checkbox"/> COMPARE	Robert Treat Academy Charter School Charter · K-8 443 Clifton Avenue Newark, NJ 07104 Homes for sale Add to My School List	9	★★★★★ I am a Proud Supporter and Parent of 'Robert Treat Academ... Read more (17)»
<input type="checkbox"/> COMPARE	North Star Academy Charter School of Newark Charter · K-2, 5-12 10 Washington Place Newark, NJ 07102 Homes for sale Add to My School List	8	★★★★★ Positively stellar school with the right mix of accountab... Read more (25)»
<input type="checkbox"/> COMPARE	Abington Ave. Elementary School Public · PK-8 209 Abington Ave Newark, NJ 07107 Homes for sale Add to My School List	7	★★★★☆ The teachers seem like they really care... Read more (8)»

- Profiles on over 200,000 PK-12 schools across the nation
- Over 900,000 community ratings and reviews on schools nationwide
- Reaches more than 37 million people each year — approximately one-in-three American families with school-age children
- GreatSchools' highest market reach is households with online users that earn less than \$20,000 per year

...build skills to help in their child's education success...

COLLEGE BOUND

- Digital media program that engages parents in their children's education
- Includes short lessons, community and resources (English and Spanish)
- Developed with leading experts
- Piloted by over 12 partners and more than 4,000 users
- Partners include KIPP, Rocketship Education, Los Angeles Unified School District and Univision Dallas

The screenshot displays the GreatSchools College Bound website. At the top, it says "Welcome Louise" and "Involved parents. Successful kids." The main heading is "For Kindergarten parents" with a sub-header "Welcome, Louise!". The "My Progress" section shows a progress bar for "Lesson Progress" (0/21 lessons completed) and "Current Grade" (Kindergarten). Below this is a table of lessons:

LESSONS	LENGTH	COMPLETED
Helping children behave well	1:39 min	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teaching kids to wait	1:30 min	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Good decisions start with choices	1:23 min	<input type="checkbox"/>

Two video player windows are overlaid on the bottom. The first, titled "Teaching confidence", shows a man and a young boy sitting on a couch. The second, titled "Repeating the beat", shows a man sitting in a chair while a young girl sits at a table writing.

...and work on-the-ground in select communities



GreatSchools created local programs to help low-income, low-literacy parents make good school choices – and to provide a laboratory for innovation for our national programs. Currently operating in Milwaukee and DC.

OBJECTIVES:

- Help low-income, low-literacy families find good school matches
- Drive more applications to high-performing schools
- Fuel advocacy for better schools

FEATURES:

- Printed and online school guides and other tools
- Parent coaching and training to support school selection (in-person & by phone)
- Community partners that expand reach of the work and offer additional resources to families

www.GreatSchools.org

Using GreatSchools.org to find schools...

Gordon J. Lau Elementary School 7 ★★★★★
 Public · K-5
 950 Clay St.
 San Francisco, CA 94108
 0.99 miles
 🏠 Homes for sale
 ➕ Add to My School List

My daughter started going to this school this year. She ...
[Read more \(3\)](#)

- User-friendly search tool with information on schools nationwide
- Provides school information like address, contact, academic performance, extra curricular activities offered, GreatSchools 1-10 rating and community ratings and reviews

...see what other parents are saying...

The screenshot displays the GreatSchools website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'About GreatSchools', 'Join Us', 'Sign In', and 'My School List (0)'. Below this is a search bar with the text 'Search for school, district, or city' and a dropdown menu set to 'CA'. The main content area features a 'Community Rating' section with five stars and the text 'Based on 24 ratings'. Below this, there are sections for 'Parent ratings | Student ratings' and 'About these ratings'. A red box highlights the 'Community Rating' and 'About these ratings' sections. Another red box highlights a user-generated review from September 1, 2005, which reads: 'This school was fun but they need better science and math teachers. But they are strong in elective classes like Electronics which is taught by the best instructor on earth Mr. P'. A red arrow points from the 'About these ratings' section to this review. The bottom of the page shows a 'Nearby Schools' section with a map and 'Map' and 'Satellite' buttons.

- Over 900,000 user-generated ratings and reviews
- Provide a qualitative perspective on schools

...find additional resources...

This screenshot shows the top portion of a GreatSchools.org article titled "Nine ways to eliminate bullying". The page features the GreatSchools logo, navigation tabs for "SCHOOLS" and "ARTICLES, VIDEOS & COMMUNITY", and a search bar. The article's main heading is "Nine ways to eliminate bullying", with a sub-heading "Teaching children to speak to an adult about bullying is one of many suggestions from our readers on how to deal with a bully." An advertisement for Stratford Schools is visible on the right side of the article.

By GreatSchools Staff

Teach children to speak up immediately

A mother from Alabama writes: "Our daughter bullies in first grade late last year. The major together (a brother and sister) against our 6-year lunch bag and literally helping themselves to was her lunch, snacks, drinks, milk money, and on for a while until she became physically ill and talked and I immediately went back to her classroom and then the principal. She handled it office. The children went to the time-out room moved closer to the driver. This worked, comb was and that she needed to speak up and tell

"Some advice to other parents: A. Take the time goes and really pay attention. I had no clue until requesting I drive her to school. It was very uncomfortable. Let the school reach out to the parents besides teaching myself to breathe properly and the bullies' teacher. C. Do coach your child anything wrong by seeking out their teacher, understand they are the victim, they are not

This screenshot shows the top portion of a GreatSchools.org article titled "Study skills for middle school and beyond". The page features the GreatSchools logo, navigation tabs for "SCHOOLS" and "ARTICLES, VIDEOS & COMMUNITY", and a search bar. The article's main heading is "Study skills for middle school and beyond", with a sub-heading "Your child has a better chance of succeeding in college if she masters school survival now. Here's how you can help her get organized and learn to study effectively." An advertisement for P&G is visible on the right side of the article.

By GreatSchools Staff

Print Email Tweet Like

"Be sure to study for the test on Friday," one of your child's teachers is certain to say some day. Does your child know how?

Your 'Media Multitasker'

A recent study by the Kaiser Family Foundation referred to today's children as "media multitaskers," who send instant messages, talk on the phone and listen to music at the same time while doing homework.

But despite what your child may tell you, this could well hinder learning, according to brain research by a UCLA psychology professor. Dr. Russell Poldrack found that multitaskers learn but they do it differently and cannot retrieve the information as effectively.

While many teachers spend some class time teaching study skills, students often need more guidance than get in the classroom. In middle school, there's more homework, it becomes more difficult and it requires analytical skills your child may not have developed.

The study skills your child needs to do well on her Friday are the same ones she will need to succeed school and college: getting organized, taking good and studying effectively.

As your child moves toward independence, she's likely to ask for your advice. She will need to go through trial and error to come up with the strategies most compatible with her learning style. And you'll want to encourage her to take responsibility for her own schoolwork. You can help her by monitoring homework, asking questions and helping her evaluate what for her — and what doesn't.

Helping your child get organized

Getting organized is crucial for your child, says Linda Winburn, a veteran South Carolina middle school teacher who became the state's 2005 Teacher of the Year. "And the key is parent involvement."

Some tips to help your child get organized:

Provide a place to study.

This screenshot shows the top portion of a GreatSchools.org article titled "First grade learning games and activities". The page features the GreatSchools logo, navigation tabs for "SCHOOLS" and "ARTICLES, VIDEOS & COMMUNITY", and a search bar. The article's main heading is "First grade learning games and activities", with a sub-heading "How you can help at home: These games and activities will help your first-grader master important academic skills while having fun." An advertisement for P&G is visible on the right side of the article.

By GreatSchools Staff

Print Email Tweet Like Send

Looking for some fun ways to help your child learn important skills? Try some of these teacher-tested activities.

Create a Personalized Placement

This activity will help your first-grader build reading and writing skills.

Number Sense

This number-sense game played with dice helps your first-grader build math concepts such as "greater than" and "less than."

Create a Noisemaker

This easy-to-create noisemaker makes amusing sounds. The activity reinforces observation, asking questions and experimentation - important skills in building scientific knowledge.

Map That House

More >

In addition to the school information offered on GreatSchools.org, we also provide content on various topics such as bullying, how to help with homework, and activities parents can do with their children at each grade level.

...information for unique family situations.

The screenshot shows the GreatSchools website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the GreatSchools logo and tagline "Involved parents. Successful kids." Below this is a search bar and a menu with categories like "SCHOOLS" and "ARTICLES, VIDEOS & COMMUNITY". A secondary navigation bar includes "Find a School", "Preschool", "Elementary School", "Middle School", "High School", "College", and "Back to School". A third bar lists "Hot Topics" such as "Academics & Activities", "Homework Help", "Parenting Dilemmas", "Health & Behavior", "Learning Difficulties", and "Test Prep".

The main content area is titled "Special Education" and features a sidebar with "More on this topic" (including Learning Disabilities & ADHD, Autism & Other Disorders, Family Support, Health & Development, and Legal Rights & Advocacy) and "Browse by grade" (from Preschool to High School). The main article is "Tips for shifting from school year to summer break" by Sarah F., with a sub-headline "I'm no longer scared about school." It includes a photo of a child reading and a promotional banner for a Livescribe smartpen. Below the article is a "Parent picks: LD literature" section with book covers for "Dyscalculia Toolkit", "The Shut-Down Learner", and "Overcoming Dyslexia".

On the right side, there's an advertisement for "FIRST5 CALIFORNIA" with the text "TEACH ME SOMETHING NEW. Show me how to sort by size!" and a "Connect With Us" section for signing up for daily tips. At the bottom right, there's a "Most Popular" list with items like "Summer homework: Yes or no?" and "Talking to teens about sex".

- Special Education section focused towards parents who have children with learning difficulties.
- Resources that speak to parents about understanding and helping their children with LDs
- Community experience where parents can chat with other parents who have children with LDs

5 Steps to finding the right school

Not just school information....

- **Step 1: Think about Needs**

- Where a student goes to school will affect the family as a whole. Students' needs must balance with important factors that affect the entire family.

- **Step 2: Understand the Choices**

- Have parents make a list of at least 5-7 schools that they have already heard about and that they want to find out more about.
- Use available resources like GreatSchools.org to find information and narrow down choices.

- **Step 3: Visit Your Top Choices**

- Now that parents have narrowed down their choices, it is time to visit! This is really the only way to tell if a school is a good fit for a child and for the family.

...but a way to get to that great fit school.

- **Step 4: Make Your Decision**

- Based on the priorities set, assess which schools meet the criteria.

- **Step 5: Apply and Enroll**

- After all that good work has been completed, it is time to fill in applications for the schools (at least 2-3)!

In the end, only the family must make the best choice for themselves!



QUESTIONS??

**For More Information Please Visit
GreatSchools.org**

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