

Council for Southwest Presents:



**School &
Neighborhood
Quality Matters!**





Questions



Write questions in the chat – they will be gathered for the Q&A at the end



Make sure to sign in with your email address so you can receive resources after the presentation is over.



Access high quality schools & neighborhoods:

- WHY
- WHAT
- HOW
- WHERE
- WHEN

WHY
Good Quality Schools &
Neighborhoods



Guidance

“The best way to manage change, whether positive or negative, is to anticipate it and prepare for it.... I have come to the conclusion that **there is no greater form of preparation for change than education**. I also think that there is no better investment that the individual, parents, and the nation can make than an **investment in education of the highest possible quality.**”



Excerpt from Hazar Imam’s speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Aga Khan School. Osh, Kyrgyz Republic, Oct. 30th, 2002.



What are the qualities of a “good” school?

What does a high quality school offer **students and families?**



What makes a school “high quality”?



Why does school quality matter?

*Increased
happiness*

*Ability to
understand
and serve
Allah's
creation*

*Improved
Quality of
Life*

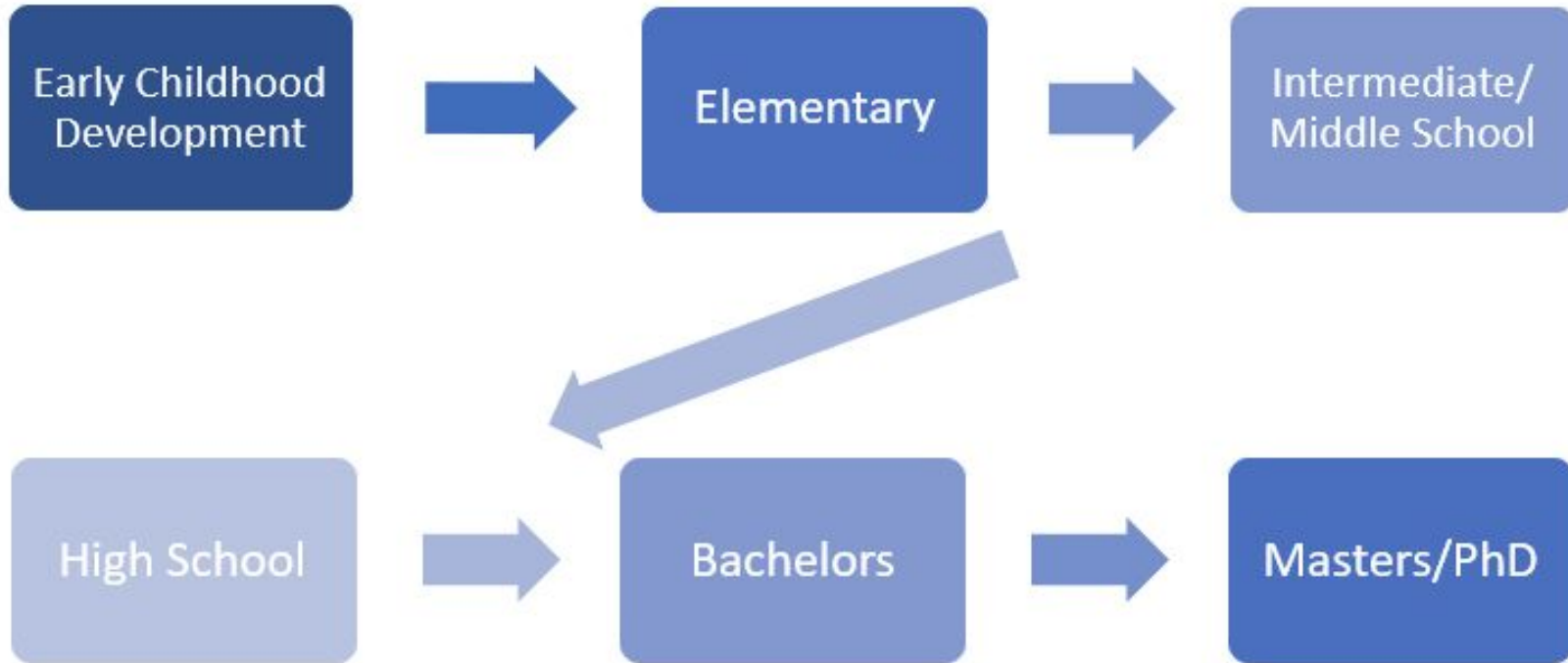
1. Hazar Imam has said: **knowledge helps us better understand and serve Allah's creation**
2. Research has shown that **an above average kindergarten teacher increases the future lifetime earnings of a child by thousands of \$\$**
3. Research has shown that **college graduates are happier later in life** (higher incomes, health, job satisfaction)



WHAT

**Details about Good Quality
Schools & Neighborhoods**

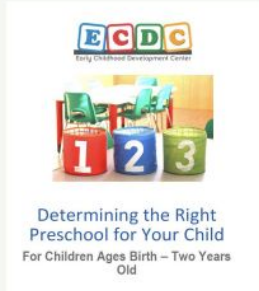
Overview of U.S. School System



It all starts with quality Early Childhood Education

How do you select the right early learning center or preschool to create a lasting impact on your child's social, emotional and academic development?

The resources below provide you with the tools you need to make the best decision possible for your children



bit.ly/ECDChecklist

Click the link above to download the ECD checklist!



[Childcareaware.org](https://www.childcareaware.org)

Click on your home state for financial resource information

For details on using the ECD Checklist, please watch:

English: bit.ly/englishECD

فارسی: bit.ly/farsiECD

ગુજરાતી: bit.ly/gujaratiECD

External ECD is critical starting around 18 months



Different types of schools

Type	Public	Charter
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highly regulated• Schools can vary in quality even within one district• Sometimes have programs like Early College or Gifted and Talented that require special admission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not as regulated as other public schools.• Often based on a particular educational philosophy (e.g. focus on college prep or something else).
Admissions	Guaranteed admission for those who live in the “zoned” boundary	Not guaranteed, often lottery based or first come first serve
Cost	Free	Free



Different types of schools

Type	Magnet	Private
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Offer something above & beyond traditional public, like a focus on a specific theme (e.g. arts, math, science).● Often a part of the district (and hence regulated by district).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Not regulated by district● Often have different curricula, extra curriculars, etc.● Not all private schools are high quality — still need to do your research!
Admissions	Not guaranteed, often competitive and application / merit-based. Sometimes lottery-based.	Often competitive and application/merit-based. May also require specialized tests like the SSAT.
Cost	Free	Paid (but scholarships are often available — e.g., United World College global high school program)



Regardless of school, parental engagement is CRITICAL

Regular meetings
with teachers,
counselors



Look at online reports
grades, attendance, and
behavior

Enrichment activities



Look for resources from
AKEB or school



**HOW
to Identify Good Quality
Schools?**

What do you do to determine if a school is high quality?

Who might you talk to? Where might you look?





Where can you look to find out if a school is good quality?

1. Greatschools.org
2. Visit the school
3. Talk to other parents about their child's school experiences
4. Talk to AKEB representatives by calling ACCESS (1-844-552-2237)



MYTH or FACT?

Other families say it's a good school, so it must be good



What else can I do?

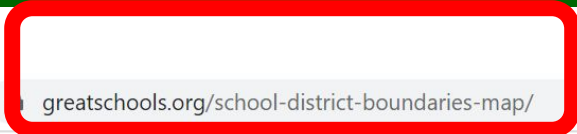
Go on a tour of the school! Some things to potentially ask:

- *Can I see some different classrooms in action?*
- *My child has special needs (ESL, IEP, etc.). What services do you offer for them? How have you supported other students with similar needs?*
- *My child is interested in <X>. What programs are available at the school for this?*
- *My child needs extra help with <X>. How can the school help?*
- *How do parents get involved and shape the direction of the school?*
 - *Do you mind sharing the names and contact info of 2-3 other parents at the school who wouldn't mind sharing their views?*

See [here](#) for more tips on conducting school visits



See your zoned school



← → ↻ greatschools.org/school-district-boundaries-map/ 📄 🗃️ ☆ 🔔



Schools ▾ City, zip, address or school 🔍

PARENTING ▾

[DONATE](#)

[EN ESPAÑOL](#)



[SIGN IN](#)

See What School District You Are In ?

Search



11111 Brooklet Drive, Houston, Texas

[Search](#)

Districts near 11111 Brooklet Dr, Hou

Alief Independent School Dis... ▾

School Grade

[Elementary](#)

[Middle](#)

[High](#)

Additional school type

Charter Private

[Nearby homes for sale](#)

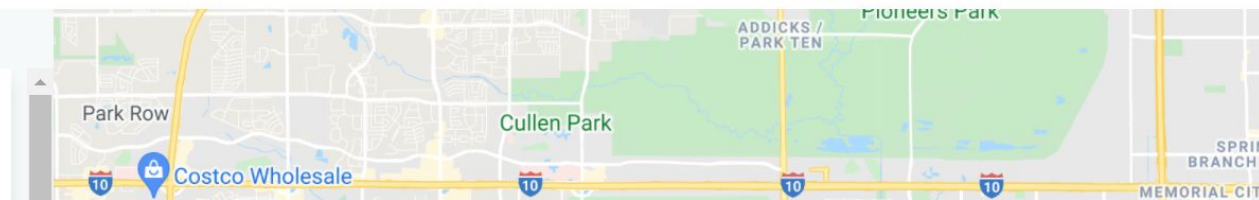
Schools in district



Mahanay Elementary School

[View in map](#)

[Homes for sale](#)



See your zoned school

Schools in district

8¹⁰ Mahanay Elementary School
[View in map](#)
[Homes for sale](#)

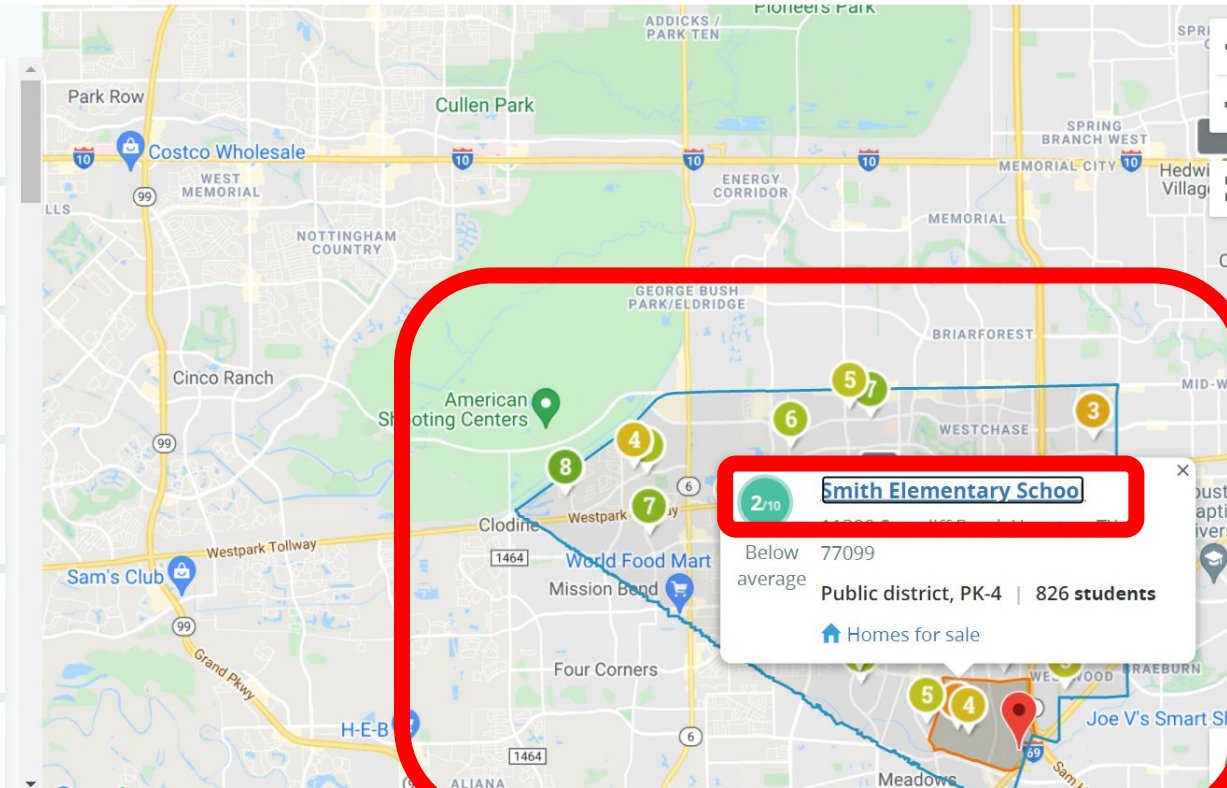
8¹⁰ Rees Elementary School
[View in map](#)
[Homes for sale](#)

7¹⁰ Chambers Elementary School
[View in map](#)
[Homes for sale](#)

7¹⁰ Outley Elementary School
[View in map](#)
[Homes for sale](#)

7¹⁰ Petrosky Elementary School
[View in map](#)
[Homes for sale](#)

6¹⁰ Kennedy Elementary School
[View in map](#)
[Homes for sale](#)





Dulles Elementary School

Unclaimed ?

630 Dulles Avenue, Sugar Land, TX 77478

Fort Bend Independent School District

Contact info

5/10

New rating
GREATSCHOOLS
RATING ?

REVIEWS
4 ★★★★★

GRADES
PK-5

STUDENTS
726

TYPE
Public

Anything below 7/10 on GreatSchools.org is cause for concern!
School rankings change, so check often!





How does GreatSchools.org decide?

ACADEMICS ?

Student progress

5/10 >

Test scores

5/10 >

EQUITY ?

Equity overview

4/10 >

Race/ethnicity >

Low-income students >

Students with disabilities >

ENVIRONMENT ?

Student demographics >

Discipline & attendance >

Teachers & staff >

Neighborhood >

Anything below 7/10 on GreatSchools.org is cause for concern! School Rankings change yearly!

WHY & HOW
Good Quality Neighborhoods

Good neighborhoods matter too! Strong connections-



BONDS

*family, close friends,
people who share our
culture or ethnicity*



BRIDGES

*distant friends,
colleagues,
associates*



LINKAGES

*people or groups
further up or lower
down the social ladder*



Good neighborhoods matter

Where a child lives can influence the friends, **role models**, and **mentors** they are connected to — impacting their **life choices** and **ambitions**!



Good neighborhoods matter too!

The built and natural environment can impact our children's
safety and **mental health**





Strong neighborhoods lead to...



**High
Opportunity
Neighborhoods**

Result in...

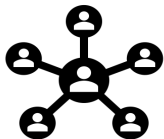


**Increases in
Lifetime
Earnings**

Why?



**High-Quality
Schools**



**Social
Network**



**Stable Family
Structures**



**Supportive
Role Models**



**Safe, Nurturing
Environments**



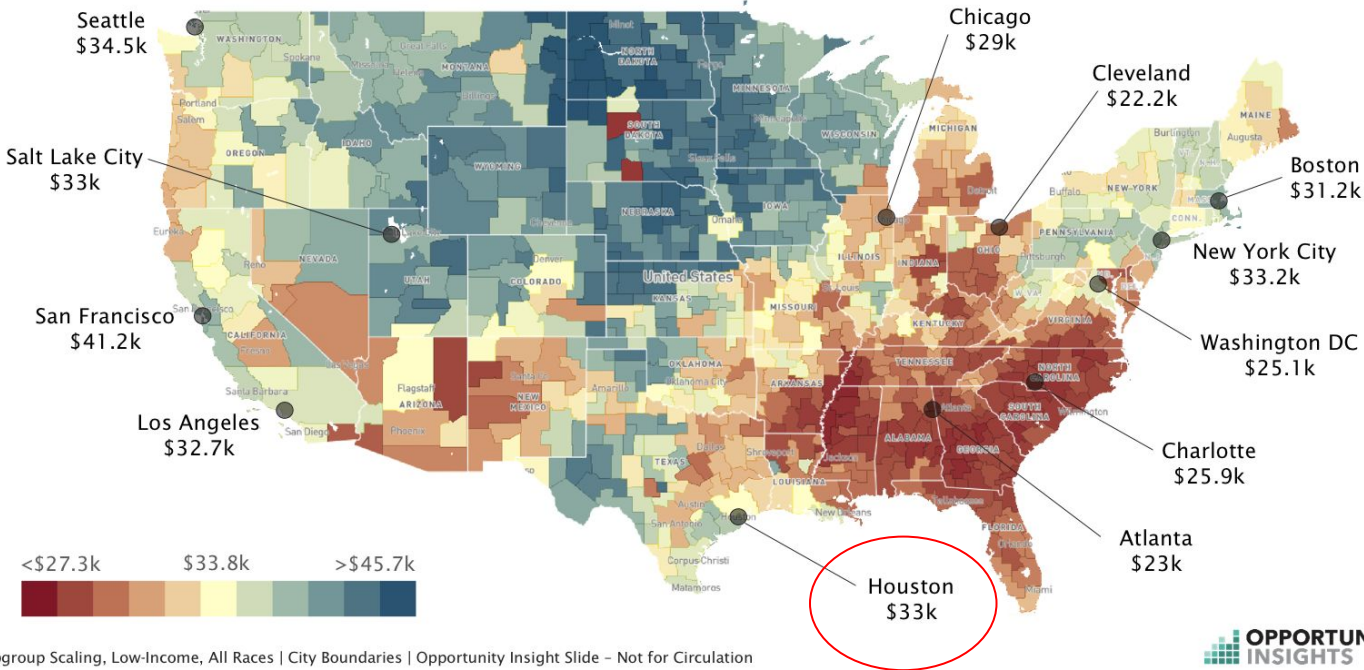
How much does a neighborhood matter?

Researchers from Harvard University, Brown University and the U.S. Census Bureau tracked children over 30 years

- Studied every neighborhood in the US — i.e., where they grew up by census tract (even smaller than ZIP codes)
- Measured their income 30 years later and how this compared to their family's income when they were children



The Geography of Upward Mobility Mean Household Income at age 35 for Children in Low Income Families

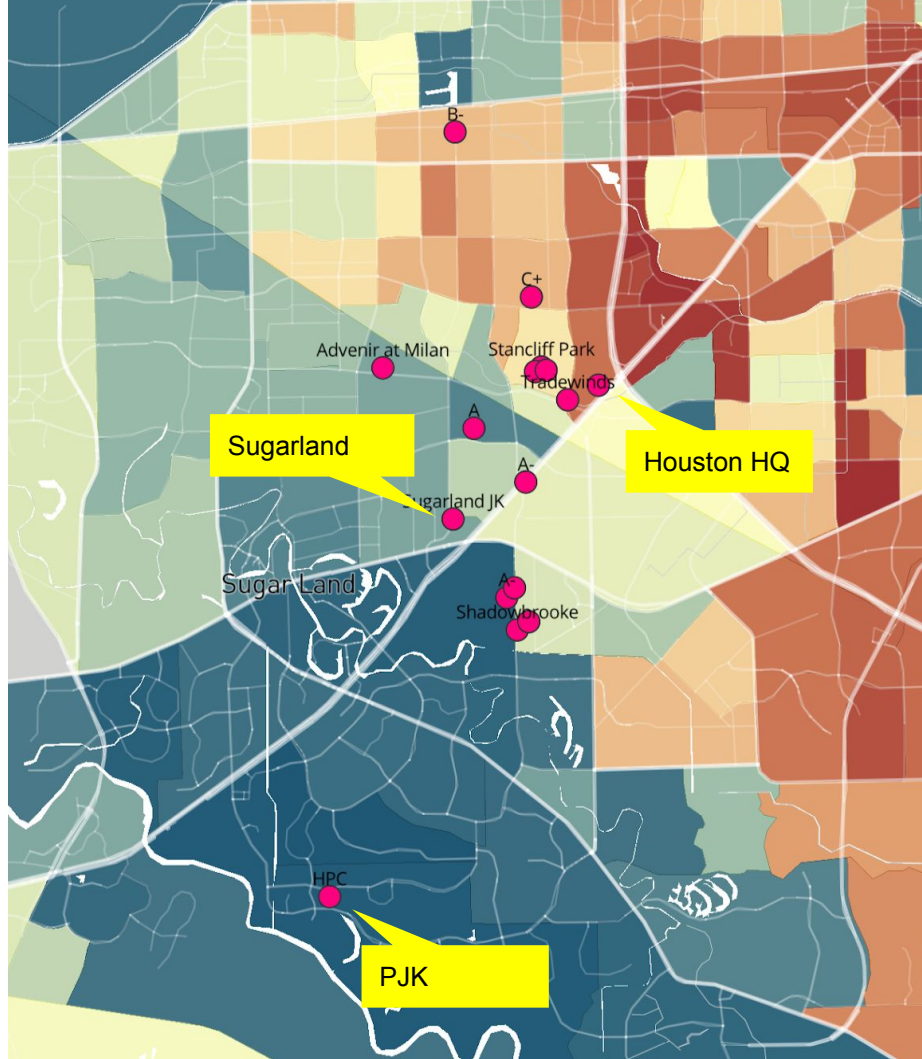


Subgroup Scaling, Low-Income, All Races | City Boundaries | Opportunity Insight Slide – Not for Circulation

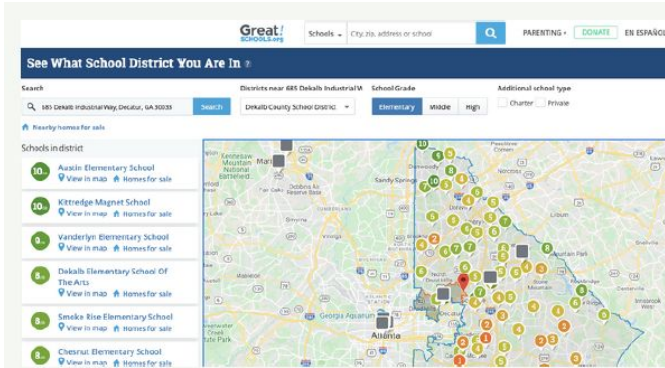


Opportunity Atlas

<\$27.3k \$33.8k >\$45.7k

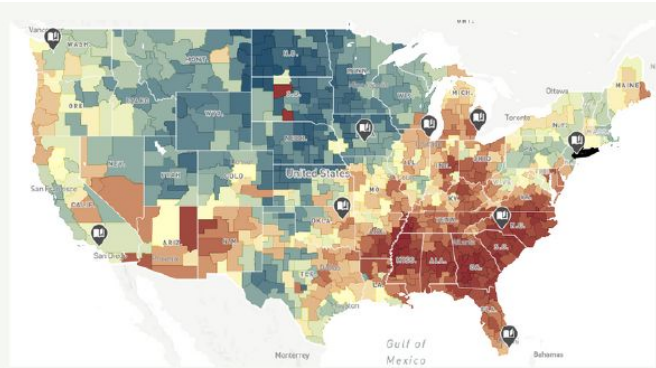


How can I research school and neighborhood quality?



[GreatSchools.org](https://www.GreatSchools.org)

Look for schools rated 8/10 or higher



[OpportunityAtlas.org](https://www.OpportunityAtlas.org)

Look for higher-opportunity neighborhoods (deeper blue)

For details on using these websites, please watch:

English: bit.ly/english-snq

فارسی: bit.ly/farsi-snq

हिंदी: bit.ly/hindi-snq-1

اردو: bit.ly/urdu-snq



Questions? Contact
ACCESS and a member
of Education Board
will reach out to offer
personalized support!



WHERE
Key Southwest Areas

Always research elementary, middle, and high school

- One high school often has several different elementary and middle schools that feed into it. This collective group of schools makes up a cluster.
- **BEFORE relocating, call the district. Check which elementary and middle schools feed into the high school.**
- There may be additional recommended school clusters for each school district than those listed in this presentation - please reach to ACCESS for additional recommendations.



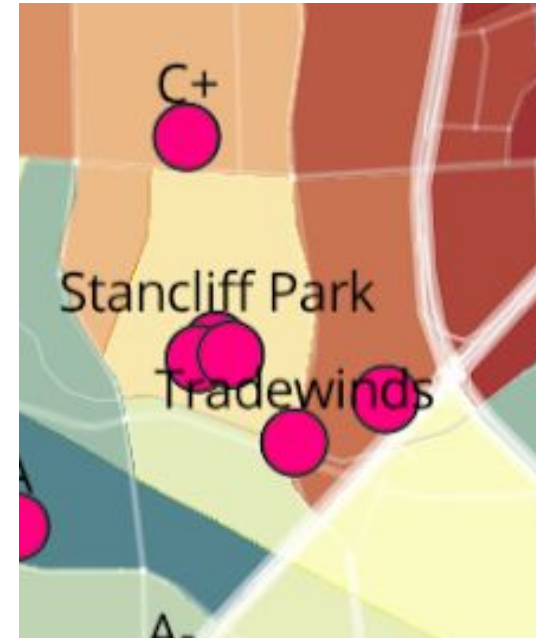


Current Schools/Neighborhood

Winding Trails Apartments

10300 Wilcrest Drive
Houston, TX 77099

Smith Elementary School	2/10
Olle Middle School	4/10
Klentzman Intermediate School	4/10
Hastings High School	3/10





School Pathways

Southwest Houston

Foundations at Austin Pkwy

5555 New Territory Blvd,
Sugar Land, TX 77479

~\$1300

Colony Meadows Elementary
School

8/10

Fort Settlement Middle School

10/10

Austin High School

8/10

Regency at Fluor Daniel

225 Fluor Daniel Dr,
Sugar Land, TX 77479

~\$1300

Colony Meadows Elementary
School

8/10

Fort Settlement Middle School

10/10

Clements High School

8/10

Not strong elementary,
strong secondary

Apartments Southwest Houston

Apartment Name	Cost per 2 Bedroom Apt.	Elementary School Rating	Middle School Rating	High School Rating
Arcadian 12100 S Texas 6, Sugar Land, TX 77498	\$1,290	5	8	7
Landmark at Sugar Land 14231 FM 1464, Sugar Land, TX 77498	\$1,435	6	8	7



Next Steps:

This is new to me and I want to learn more...

My family is thinking about relocating but is not 100% sure yet...

I am ready to relocate!

If your family has decided that you are interested in relocating or need help with Charter school admissions, contact ACCESS.

Volunteers will guide you through the relocation process.

Each family that signs up will be assigned a coordinator to work with them throughout the process.



Call ACCESS today: 1-844-552-2237



Don't wait!

- Call ACCESS: 1-844-552-2237
- Continue the Conversation online



AKEB Southwest



@akebsw



@akebsw



akebsw.org

