

QUICK FACTS

POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA ...A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY

- Polk County's land mass is bigger than the state of Rhode Island with Lakeland being the largest city of over 90,000 people.
- The cost of living is in the lower-half of the state. Affordable housing is often half as expensive as housing found in other areas of Florida. Residents have no state or county income taxes.

WE TAKE PRIDE IN OUR STUDENTS

- The ethnic composition mirrors the nation with 80% white, 14% black, and 12% hispanic.
- 2 students won awards at the 2009 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. The Intel event is considered one of the premiere science competitions in the world for high school students.
- In the last five years, Polk had 215 students recognized in various levels of the National Merit Scholar program. 39 of those students were honored in the 2008-2009 school year.

WE TAKE PRIDE IN OUR SCHOOLS

- The Florida Department of Education gave Polk County Schools a grade of "B" for both 2008 and 2009.
- More than two-thirds of Polk County Schools received an A or B grade.
- State Reports show that Polk has the best energy consumption is the lowest of any Florida school district.
- NASA awarded \$1.4 million education grant to enhance Kathleen Senior's Central Florida Aerospace Academy (CFAA), an aviation-oriented high school/career academy located at Lakeland Linder Airport.
- Twenty-seven Polk schools received the prestigious Five Star Award for community service and involvement efforts (family, volunteers, school advisory councils and business partners).

WE TAKE PRIDE IN OUR STAFF

- 3 Polk teachers in the past six years were Florida Teacher of the Year finalists, one winning the state title.
- 5 Polk teachers were among the 85 statewide in 2009 to receive an Excel Award from the Foundation for Excellence in Education. They received the award for their students demonstrating the greatest gains and improvements on the FCAT.