

ST. LUCIE COUNTY TO ADOPT SPACE FLORIDA ACADEMY PROGRAM TO PROPEL STUDENTS INTO HIGH-DEMAND AEROSPACE CAREERS



Dr. Helen Wild, Deputy Superintendent for St. Lucie Public Schools, bottom right, participated in a signing ceremony with Space Florida Aug. 1. Photo courtesy of Space Florida

On August 1, Space Florida, the state’s aerospace finance and development authority, announced partnerships with St. Lucie Public Schools and 22 other school districts across Florida to begin implementation of the Space Florida Academy Program within those districts. The program aims to connect students with high-demand credentials and skills necessary to work in the aerospace industry; credentials that may not have been traditionally associated with the aerospace industry.

In collaboration with industry leaders, the Florida Department of Education, the Florida Department of Commerce, the REACH Office (Reimagining Education and Career Help), and CareerSource Florida, the Space Florida Academy Program will focus on reframing aerospace job characterization by focusing on the following target areas to meet current and future industry demand: Aviation/Aerospace, Advanced Manufacturing, Construction, Cybersecurity/IT, Logistics and Semiconductors.

“The Space Florida Academy Program offers a new trajectory for students to explore careers in aerospace by breaking down legacy perceptions of what an aerospace career requires,” said Rob Long, president and CEO, Space Florida. “By bringing

industry together with education, the program helps highlight these opportunities and ascertains what is truly needed now, and in the future, to meet workforce demands.”

“The Space Florida Academy Program represents a pivotal step in ensuring that our students are equipped with the skills and credentials needed to thrive in the aerospace industry,” said Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez, Space Florida Board Chair. “By collaborating with industry leaders and educational institutions, we are creating a pathway for Florida’s students to pursue high-demand careers and secure our state’s position as a global leader in aerospace innovation.”

“St. Lucie County is well known for its prominence in marine manufacturing, but we’ve also been building our aerospace and aviation footprint at the Treasure Coast International Airport and with the opening of companies like Accel International, manufacturer of high-performance conductors for the aerospace market,” said Peter Tesch, president of the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County. “We couldn’t be more pleased with St. Lucie Public Schools new partnership with Space Florida as our community and our young people literally reach for the stars.”

“Being selected to participate in the Space Academy Program broadens the career opportunities for our students by ensuring they have the industry standard credentials needed to fulfill highly skilled, high-demand jobs in the local space industry, said St. Lucie Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Jon Prince.

The other participating counties included Baker, Brevard, Charlotte, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Hamilton, Hernando, Lake, Levy, Martin, Marion, Miami-Dade, Nassau, Osceola, Orange, Palm Beach, PK Yonge, Putnam, Santa Rosa, and Suwannee.

About Space Florida

Space Florida is where leading aerospace companies get everything they need to see their new ideas take off. As the state’s aerospace finance and development authority, Space Florida brings a mix of unrivaled experience, unmatched financial tools, and unbeatable location to the table by providing critical business financing opportunities for the aerospace industry, managing infrastructure investment in the state’s spaceport system, and facilitating research and development, workforce, education, and investment programs.

About St. Lucie Public Schools

[St. Lucie Public Schools](http://www.stlucieschools.org) (SLPS) proudly serves students with a graduation rate of 90%+ for seven consecutive years, ranking them in the top 10 in the state. SLPS is a high-ranking B-rated School District that has the distinction of being recognized as one of St. Lucie County’s Best Places to Work. The mission of SLPS is to ensure all students graduate from safe and caring schools equipped with the knowledge, skills, and desire to succeed. Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#), or visit <http://www.stlucieschools.org>.