



## **Affordable Home Prices in Suburbs Create Opportunities for Families Searching for Great Schools**

*Before back-to-school season, explore affordable homes near top-rated schools close to the largest U.S. cities.*

Los Angeles, CA ([PRWeb](#)) August 6, 2008 -- According to a recent Harris Interactive Survey commissioned by Move, Inc.,(1) home buyers are less likely to compromise on school quality than on being close to work, shopping and other daily conveniences to buy in the current real estate market. An upside of U.S. home price declines in some markets is that families can now purchase affordable homes in outlying communities with great schools as back-to-school season begins.

Explore communities outside popular U.S. cities (New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston and Philadelphia) using the Find A Neighborhood feature on REALTOR.com®, the #1 homes-for-sale Web site where school ratings and many other community statistics are a mouse click away.

### Floral Park, NY:

Residents can thank founder John Lewis Childs for the city's name and streets named after flowers. Even sweeter to parents working in the Big Apple are the highly-rated schools and lower home prices. Many [local schools](#) are near the top of Great Schools' ratings scale, while the average home price is in the mid \$400K range. Rentals are around \$1500/month, with an easy commute to NYC. Take a look at these [listings](#) to sample the charm of local homes.

### Simi Valley, CA:

The closer you get to LA, the harder it is to find highly-rated schools and the more likely you'll pay higher home prices. Fortunately, LA recently improved its rapid transit system, makes outlying areas like Simi Valley more attractive in terms of housing and schools. Home to the Ronald Reagan Presidential library and museum, Simi Valley was named one of the safest cities in the nation by a 2007 FBI report. Many [homes](#) average in the mid \$400Ks and rentals are about \$2,500/month. [Schools](#) have an average rating of 8 out of a possible rating of 10.(2)

### Carol Stream, IL:

Houses are more affordable for families moving to the middle of the U.S. Carol Stream is a pretty Chicago suburb where the average [home](#) sells for about \$250K and rentals run about \$1,650/month. While most assume its name came from a minor waterway, it actually received the first and last name of a living person, daughter of the community's developer, Jay Stream. Count on highly rated [schools](#) here and a 30-mile commute into Chicago.

### Pearland, TX:

Near Houston, there are plenty of great companies to work for, with housing and [schools](#) offering families a higher standard of living and lower costs. In 2007, Forbes Magazine ranked Pearland, just outside Houston, the 34th fastest growing suburb in the U.S. Originally agriculturally-based, Pearland is now home to a largely white-collar population where homes average around \$200K and rentals are in the \$1,750/month range. Check these [local listings](#) in Pearland.



Oreland, PA:

A vast lime deposit was responsible for this town's development way back in the late 1600's and it was also the basis for its name. Families who call it home get both highly rated [schools](#) and a historic and affordable community about 30 minutes outside of Philadelphia. Home prices average about \$300K and rentals are around \$1,350/month. Pay more and you can even own a [mini estate](#) like this one on Realtor.com.

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(1) This Homeownership survey was conducted online within the United States by Harris Interactive on behalf of Move Sales Inc between May 21 and May 23, 2008 among 2,462 adults ages 18+.

(2) Great Schools rating data, <http://www.greatschools.net/>

(3) comScore Media Metrix, June, 2008

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