Maryland Research Guide for Buyers

Top Free Sites for Schools & Crime Research

Whether you are relocating from abroad or simply moving counties, these six free websites give you the full picture on Maryland schools and neighborhood safety before you make an offer.

SCHOOLS

1	**GreatSchools.org** *greatschools.org*	Enter any Maryland address to see ratings, test scores, and parent reviews for every public and private school serving that property. The most widely used school research tool in the U.S.
2	**Niche.com** *niche.com*	Grades schools and entire school districts on an A to F scale, combining test scores, teacher quality, and diversity. Easy to compare counties at a glance — especially helpful if you are unfamiliar with Maryland's school system.
3	**Maryland Dept. of Education** *msde.maryland.gov*	Official state data: school report cards, standardized test performance, and graduation rates straight from the source. More detailed than consumer sites, and authoritative when you need the primary numbers.

CRIME & SAFETY

1	**SpotCrime.com** *spotcrime.com*	Pulls real incident data directly from local police departments and maps it by crime type and date. Best resource for seeing what is actually happening on a specific street right now.
2	**City-Data.com** *city-data.com*	Free neighborhood data including crime indexes, historical trends, and demographic breakdowns. Search by city or zip code and compare any two Maryland areas side by side.
3	**NeighborhoodScout.com** *neighborhoodscout.com*	Crime risk scores down to the neighborhood level, with a U.S. percentile ranking. Gives buyers coming from outside the country a reliable baseline for understanding American crime statistics.

Where to start: Niche.com is the easiest entry point. The A-F grades translate across any language barrier. Go to **niche.com/places-to-live/search/best-cities/s/maryland/** to compare all Maryland counties side by side, then drill into individual schools and neighborhoods from there.

James Armel | JPAR Real Estate

(301) 751-9318 | jamesarmelrealestate.com