



REGIONAL BEST FLIGHT SCHOOLS

Each of these flight schools earned exceptional ratings from its students in the areas of flight training effectiveness, student support, access to community, and more.



NORTHEAST

Take Flight Aviation

Airport: Orange County (MGJ), New York

Aircraft: Piper, Diamond, Light Sport aircraft

Why they won: Take Flight Aviation was recognized by customers for the value the school provides “while making people feel like part of the aviation family,” according to Moser. Owner Ryan Mayo and Director Chris Graessle help provide that value by offering training in a fleet of new airplanes from Diamond Aircraft. In 2016, Take Flight Aviation won AOPA’s President’s Award.



SOUTHEAST

FL Aviation Center

Airport: Tallahassee International (TLH), Florida

Aircraft: Piper, Cessna, Redbird FMX simulator

Why they won: “Customers consistently comment about the friendly atmosphere and how they make flight training more fun,” Moser said of owners Faith Drewry and Lacey Smith. “The school is heavily involved in the community, hosting and attending numerous airport events, fly-ins, and community shows throughout the year. Customers praised the safety culture, and of the care shown to the aircraft. Squawks are taken care of almost immediately, no matter how small.”



MIDWEST

Blue Skies Flying Service and Pilot Shop

Airport: Lake in the Hills (3CK), Illinois

Aircraft: Cessna, Piper, Diamond

Why they won: Customers love the friendliness of owner Mike Carzoli and the instructor staff. Survey respondents lavished praise on the aviation professionals at Blue Skies, who are great at accommodating customer needs and have a reputation for professionalism all around, including an emphasis on detail and safety. Customers feel like they are getting a great value with a dedicated staff that cares.



SOUTHWEST

Texas Flight Aviation

Airport: David Wayne Hooks Memorial (DWH), Texas

Aircraft: Cessna, Piper, Diamond, Beechcraft Baron, Decathlon

Why they won: Customers focused on its “friendly atmosphere, caring staff, structured learning environment,” and the value it provides. “Their customers feel strongly that this team has put together a great combination. Customers consistently mention that the staff cares about each person’s training experience,” Moser said.



NORTHWEST

SkyTrek Alaska Flight Training, national winner

Airport: Merrill Field (PAMR), Alaska

Aircraft: Cessna

Why they won: Owner Jamie Patterson-Simes takes great care of each student, making sure to keep her undivided attention on each client during their scheduled time. Patterson-Simes is proud of her mentorship role for many younger students, and it shows in the praise they have for her guidance.