

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION
U.S. Department of Transportation

Center of Excellence (CoE) for Domestic Workforce Training and Education

Sea School –
Jacksonville, Fort Lauderdale, St. Petersburg, Panama City, Florida
Bayou La Batre, Alabama, Charleston, South Carolina, and Houma, Louisiana

The Secretary of Transportation designates Sea School a 2026 Center of Excellence for its scalable training systems, wheelhouse endorsements, and multi-state career pipeline. Serving as a Gulf Coast and Southeast vocational anchor for over 40 years, the school bridges critical crew shortages by providing clear pathways into commercial shipping, towing, and port operations.

Operational Footprint & Assets

The school integrates seven physical campuses, a self-paced distance portal, and mobile instruction teams.

- **Multi-State Campus Grid:** Delivers continuous in-person maritime training across fully staffed centers in four states.
- **Specialized Maneuvering Tools:** Offers elite wheelhouse tracks, including certified Z-drive/ASD tugboat operations, radar unlimited, and Towing Officer Assessment Record steering assessments.
- **On-Site Corporate Delivery:** Deploys U.S. Coast Guard-certified courses (Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels, Master 100 Ton, Tank Barge-PIC) directly onto client vessels and facilities.

Workforce & Regional Impact

The program drives local employment, training a diverse workforce to meet the technical demands of commercial vessel operators.

- **High-Volume Licensing:** Maintains a steady pipeline of credentialed mariners via multi-site captain's licensing programs stabilizing the regional workforce.
- **Advanced Fleet Competencies:** Certifies personnel in Tank Ship Dangerous Liquids, bulk cargo handling, and port security protocols.
- **Accessible Learning Models:** Offers hybrid, online, and weekend training so working mariners can upgrade credentials without losing payroll hours.

Strategic Outlook

To maximize national maritime readiness, the institution is standardizing its wheelhouse modules and digital distance learning. Operating as an elastic training hub alongside regional shipping associations, the school deploys mobile instruction cadres during crises. Training up to 24 employees simultaneously on active hulls, it ensures domestic fleets and ports maintain continuous operations under emergency surge demands.