

RECOMMENDATION: CLOSE CROSS BAYOU, REZONE STUDENTS, TRANSITION ESE PROGRAM TO K-8, SELL/LEASE THE PROPERTY

This recommendation **closes Cross Bayou ES at the end of the 2025-26 school year**. Cross Bayou ES currently serves 245 students in grades K-5, and the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH) program, which currently serves 27 PK-5 students. The students currently zoned for Cross Bayou ES will be rezoned to nearby Bardmoor ES or Pinellas Central ES, depending on their home address. The **D/HH program will transition to a PK-8 program in one location at Walsingham Oaks K-8 at the end of the 2025-26 school year**. Current grade 6 students in the D/HH program will have the choice to transition from Morgan Fitzgerald MS to Walsingham Oaks K-in 2026-27. Full transition of the program will occur in 2027-28, when Walsingham Oaks welcomes its first 8th-grade class. Upon Cross Bayou’s closure, the recommendation includes selling or leasing the Cross Bayou property following the established district procedures.

COMMUNITY INPUT SUMMARY: RECEIVED AS OF 1/16/26

PLANNING FOR PROGRESS MEETINGS: COMMON THEMES

- **Additional K-8 schools.** Call for continuity and smoother transition for students in a K-8 model.
- **Intentional program offerings** that provide more STEM, IT, and career learning in K-12 program offerings.
- Maintain positive school cultures and **retain strong teachers and support staff**.
- Use buildings for added **infant through age 3 child care** with a community partner and/or for employee childcare.
- Repurpose buildings/convert surplus **space for community use** for day care, elder care, etc.
- **Lease buildings to child care and/or community partners** that will provide school and community impact.
- **Combine facilities** to increase usage in buildings.
- If **selling land or repurposing facilities**, prioritize beneficial community use, including green space, recreation centers, and affordable housing opportunities.

PRINCIPAL/DISTRICT STAFF SESSIONS: COMMON THEMES

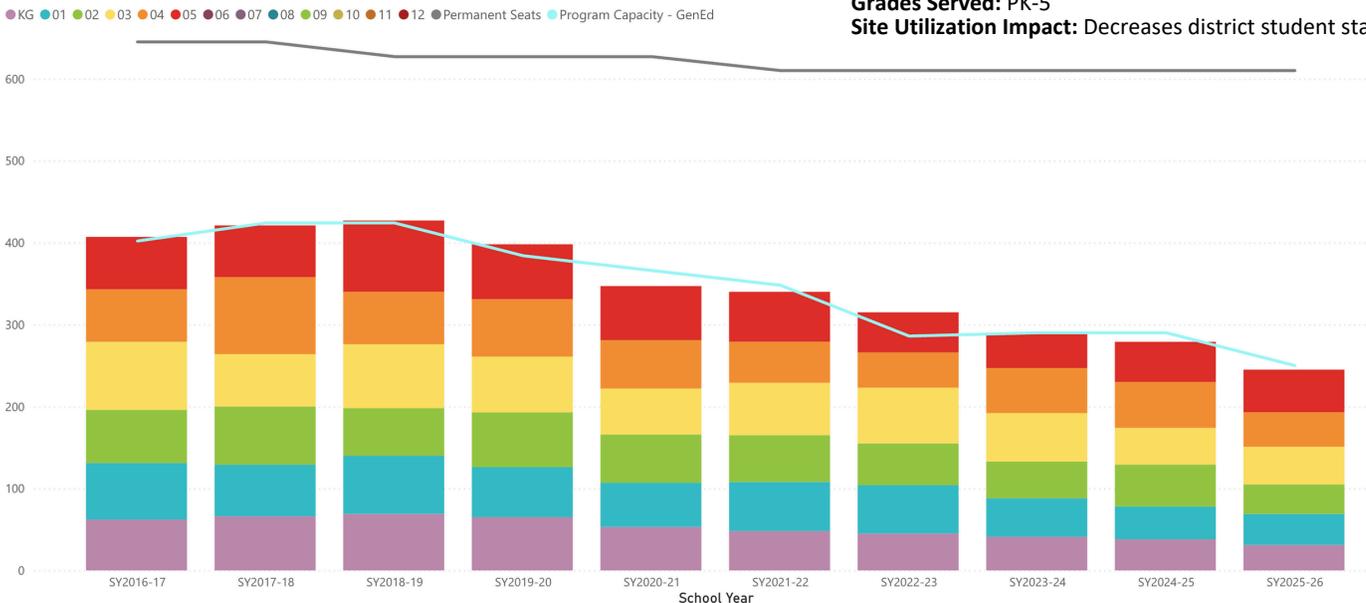
- **Additional K-8 schools.** Intentional program offerings to **provide electives in K-8 model**.
- Intentional program offerings to better **align elementary schools to MS/HS programs**.
- **Retain teachers and support staff to create/sustain a positive culture**.
- **Expand hands-on career learning** to provide increased opportunity to earn industry certifications.
- Combine offerings to **maximize space while maintaining personalized culture**.
- Use buildings for added **infant through age 3 child care** with community partner and/or for employee childcare.
- **Lease to other childcare and/or after-care partner**.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND HISTORY

Cross Bayou ES has a K-5 enrollment of 245 students with a building capacity of 610 student stations. Current building utilization is 40%. During the 2018-19 school year, enrollment reached 427 students, the highest number in a ten-year period, with a decrease in each subsequent school year. Cross Bayou ES is located less than a two-mile drive from Pinellas Central ES and less than a five-mile drive from Bardmoor ES. Both schools have the building capacity (Bardmoor ES utilization=48%; Pinellas Central utilization=56%) to support the student population currently zoned for Cross Bayou ES.

TABLE: CROSS BAYOU ES CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT

Year Opened: 1958
Grades Served: PK-5
Site Utilization Impact: Decreases district student stations by 610



Official Count Snapshot Data (Survey 2), FISH and Program Capacity
 Tables demonstrate student enrollment in bar charts, total permanent building capacity (student stations) in the grey line graph, and staffing for the student population and programs in the teal line.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Cross Bayou ES has earned a school grade of C since the 2013-14 school year. The recommendation for closure and rezoning ensures that students will attend schools with a proven track record of success in student achievement.

Students who live west of 66th Street N will be zoned for Bardmoor ES. Bardmoor ES is an A-rated school that serves students in grades PK-5 and promotes a college and career culture through schoolwide Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) strategies. Additionally, Bardmoor has programming for students with autism and a Dual Language Immersion magnet program.

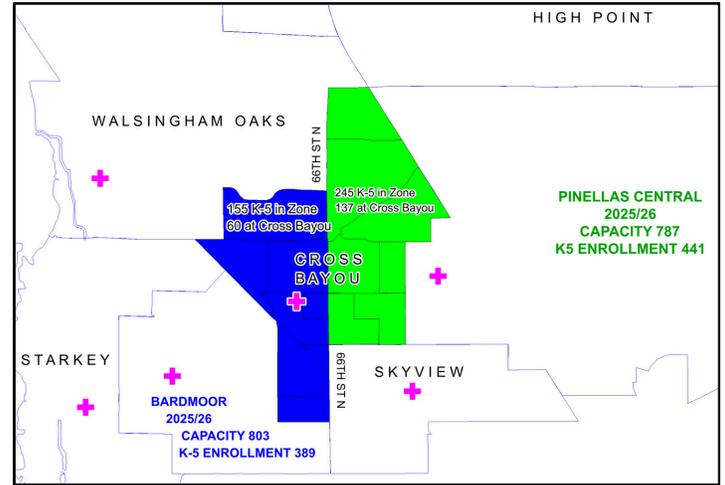
Students who live east of 66th Street N will be zoned for Pinellas Central ES. Pinellas Central ES is an A-rated school that serves students in grades PK-5 with a schoolwide focus on reading, writing, and early literacy success. The school is committed to being family- and community-focused in order to ensure successful student outcomes.

Students, staff, and supports within the D/HH program will attend Walsingham Oaks K-8. Walsingham Oaks serves students in grades K-8. The school embraces innovative learning opportunities and maintains a strong reputation for partnerships with families and community members.

Transportation may be provided in alignment with School Board Policy.

2024-25 SCHOOL GRADES		
Cross Bayou	Bardmoor	Pinellas Central
C	A	A

Academic program enhancements are designed to support high-quality learning environments, academic achievement, and student success. Based on current school grade rules and utilizing current Cross Bayou ES students who would be zoned for/attend the receiving schools, all school grades are estimated to be maintained.



FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

RECENT FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

PROJECT	YEAR	INVESTMENT COST
Carpet/Flooring	2023	\$600k
Roof/Covered Walkway	2019	\$854K

ESTIMATED FACILITIES INVESTMENT

The Cross Bayou ES site has over \$5.1 million in capital improvement investments (e.g., roof replacement, painting, front office expansion, and refrigerator/cooler replacement) that will be needed in the upcoming years. Both Bardmoor and Pinellas Central elementary schools have undergone recent, comprehensive renovations.

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT

Total Savings: \$3M/year
Personnel: \$2.5M/year
Operational: \$500K/year

Capital Investment: None recommended at this time. The recommendation is to sell or lease the property as-is.

NEXT STEPS:

RECOMMENDATION COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

- Notification:**
 - Tuesday, January 20, 2026.
 - Email and phone communication regarding the recommendation sent to families, staff members, and school-based community partners.
- Staff Meetings**
 - Staff should refer to their PCS email for dates/times
- Family and Community Meeting #1- Recommendation Overview**
 - Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 6:00 pm.
- Family and Community Meeting #2- Recommendation Follow-Up**
 - Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Meet with faculty and staff members who may have specific questions regarding the recommendation and how it may impact them individually.
- If the recommendation is approved by the School Board, Human Resources will provide direct, individualized support to staff to identify a new assignment for the 2026-27 school year.

ONGOING SCHOOL FAMILY/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- If the recommendation is approved by the School Board, ongoing support to students and families will be provided, including:
 - Opportunities to shadow/visit the campus and attend experiences hosted at the new zoned school.
 - Individualized school choice support will be on-site at the school for families interested in additional options for the 2026-27 school year.

To learn more about or provide feedback on any district recommendation, visit www.pcsb.org/progress.