



# DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN

**MIDYEAR REPORT**  
**2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR**

Progress from **July 2025** through **December 2025**

Published: March 2026

# WHO WE ARE

## VISION

100% student success

## MISSION

Educate and prepare each student for college, career and life

## CORE VALUES

Commitment to children, families and community

- Making decisions and committing resources to attain each student's success
- Seeking out and connecting with families and community

Respectful and caring relationships

- Establishing positive relationships among all stakeholders
- Using the district vision to guide intentions, motives and actions

Cultural competence

- Understanding and honoring culturally-defined beliefs, needs, styles and behaviors of the students, families and communities we serve
- Valuing the benefit that individual differences bring to our school district
- Recognizing the importance of individual similarities and differences while working effectively with all stakeholders from various cultures, races, ethnicities and religious backgrounds

Integrity

- Maintaining the highest standards of behavior, ethics, fairness and honesty with ourselves and others
- Committing to doing the right things for the right reasons
- Demonstrating fairness in our judgments and actions

Responsibility

- Fulfilling commitments and promises through fact-based decision-making and problem-solving
- Taking ownership of our own behaviors
- Seeking opportunities for continuous improvement

Connectedness

- Teaming through internal and external partnerships by aligning efforts for the common purpose of each student's success
- Willing to share and transfer knowledge with others



# DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN

## OVERVIEW

The 2023–26 Pinellas County Schools (PCS) District Strategic Plan (DSP) was Board-approved in September 2023 and provides clear direction for strategic improvement areas that will accelerate the district and student success over the next three years. These high-leverage areas of focus, in alignment with the district’s vision, mission, and core values, guide the continuous improvement efforts of schools and district departments. Further, the DSP is developed alongside the budget to ensure resources are prioritized and aligned with the initiatives that support the district goals.

The PCS District Strategic Plan can be accessed online: [www.pcsb.org/strategicplan](http://www.pcsb.org/strategicplan)



## MONITORING

The district monitors each objective by utilizing the Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) process. District departments develop targeted, cross-functional action plans to support the attainment of each objective. Interdepartmental teams monitor the DSP by:

- clearly defining strategies;
- planning and allocating supports and resources needed for implementation;
- regularly monitoring key performance indicators; and
- adjusting strategies, supports and/or resources to meet student, family, school, and department needs.

In support of the DSP, each school engages in a continuous improvement process through a School Improvement Plan (SIP). As schools build their SIPs, site-based teams review current progress, develop strategies, set goals, and create action plans to support growth.

## QUARTER 2 UPDATE

This update highlights actions and progress toward each strategic priority and objective within the DSP from July 2025 through December 2025. Each page highlights the work of the district by objective and includes:

- Objective Strategies in Action,
- Fast Facts,
- Presentations of Progress (if applicable), and
- Communication Corner (if applicable).

This update report shares the district’s progress toward its goals with all stakeholders. Additionally, stakeholders can access the district’s progress on each objective through a public [DSP community dashboard](#) on the PCS website.



# QUARTER 2 UPDATE

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION OBJECTIVE 1: ACCELERATE INNOVATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR ALL STUDENTS



Progress: July 2025 - December 2025



### OBJECTIVE 1 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

#### Interactive Learning in Motion

PCS is piloting ActiveFloor, an interactive learning tool that projects educational games onto the floor, allowing students to move and learn simultaneously. Available for temporary checkout districtwide, the platform features Florida Standards-aligned activities for grades K–8, helping students use their whole bodies to develop skills in math, languages, and social learning in a fun, active way.

#### Teaching Biotechnology

High school biology teachers participated in an immersive biotechnology training that included a working dairy farm and a hands-on cattle DNA lab. Educators analyzed cattle DNA to identify a valuable milk-protein gene, connecting classroom science to real-world farming decisions. Participants also received lab kits to bring this inquiry-based biotechnology experience to their students.

#### Opera Meets ELA

Elevate ARTS 2.0 and PCS Performing Arts partnered with the St. Petersburg Opera Company to present the children’s opera Pinocchio to nearly 860 third graders. Through in-school artist visits and integrated instruction, students explored character development, perspective, and theme in an engaging, live performance experience.

### FAST FACTS



#### PCS Robotic Expansion

PCS FIRST Robotics now spans elementary through high school, with 68 teams—more than any other district in Florida. Students of all ages are designing, building, and competing, gaining hands-on STEM experience and skills that prepare them for future careers in innovation and technology.



#### Key to Dali Art Mobile

Opened in October 2025, the Key to Dalí Art Mobile immerses students in interactive exhibits and encourages hands-on engagement. The mobile has visited six elementary schools and approximately 3,000 students.

### PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

[What’s New 2025-26](#)

[District and School Grades, July 2025](#)

### COMMUNICATION CORNER

[Tarpon Springs Outdoor Performance Ensemble is the 2025 BOA Orlando Regional Overall Grand Champion](#)

[PCS Superintendent, educators and students earn awards from the Florida Art Education Association](#)

[Pinellas County Schools Unveils Mobile Innovation Lab to Inspire Middle School Scientists](#)

[Seminole High School Warhawk Marching Band became the FFCC Class 4A State Champions](#)

[Osceola Middle wins The Future Cities competition](#)

[Annual exhibition, 'Creative stART,' showcases art creativity of Pinellas County students](#)



# QUARTER 2 UPDATE



## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION

### OBJECTIVE 2: EXPAND EARLY LITERACY INITIATIVES FOR ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES PRE-K-3

Progress: July 2025 - December 2025



## OBJECTIVE 2 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

### STAR Reading Success

PCS students are excelling on STAR assessments across grades: kindergarteners scored 10 percentage points above the state, first graders 2 percentage points above, and second graders 6 percentage points above.

### First Grade STAR Reading

The state requires all first-grade students to take the STAR Reading assessment in PM3, with flexibility to use either STAR Early Literacy or STAR Reading in PM1 and PM2. In PCS, 95% of first-grade students take STAR Reading across all three progress monitoring periods, increasing early exposure to the rigor of the year-end assessment. This proactive approach resulted in a PM2 participation rate significantly higher than the statewide average of 61%. Despite the increased rigor, PCS first graders achieved a 46% proficiency rate in PM2, two percentage points above the state average, indicating strong preparation for the PM3 assessment.

### PreK Enrollment Opened in November

Every school received a banner to display on campus as part of a districtwide effort to promote early learning and engage families in PCS PreK and VPK programs.

## FAST FACTS



### Kindergarten Readiness

PCS ranked 3rd in the state for kindergarten readiness, with 53% of students considered ready, 9 points above the state average.



### Voluntary Prekindergarten

Among PCS kindergarteners who completed VPK, 63% were kindergarten-ready, compared with 55% statewide.

## PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

[What's New 2025-26](#)

[Student Performance on State Assessment, January 2026](#)

## COMMUNICATION CORNER

[Reading Under the Stars at Lealman Avenue Elementary!](#)

[PreK Application Period Opens November 19](#)



# QUARTER 2 UPDATE



## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION OBJECTIVE 3: ENSURE GRADUATES ARE PREPARED FOR WORKFORCE AND COLLEGE SUCCESS

Progress: July 2025 - December 2025



### OBJECTIVE 3 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

#### University Partnership Event

In partnership with St. Petersburg College and Florida A&M University, PCS supported the first-ever FAMU recruitment event in Pinellas County. The inaugural event expanded student and family postsecondary exposure by connecting them with admissions representatives, academic programs, and financial aid resources.

#### College Test Prep Success

Test prep was offered in all high schools ahead of the October PSAT and SAT, and 90% of participating students increased their scores by 50 to 200 points. These gains expand scholarship opportunities and open more postsecondary pathways for graduates.

### FAST FACTS



#### Dual Enrollment

In Fall 2025, nearly 1,100 PCS students enrolled in St. Petersburg College's SLS 1301: College and Career Readiness course and achieved a 90% pass rate—the highest dual enrollment completion rate to date.



#### FAFSA Completion

FAFSA completion has surpassed 30% across the district, with 40% of Elevating Excellence students already completing their FAFSA, increasing student access to financial support for college.

### PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

[What's New 2025-26](#)

[College and Career Center Update, Oct 2025](#)

### COMMUNICATION CORNER

[30 Pinellas students named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists](#)

[Hollins High School junior earns BigFuture Scholarship](#)

[High School Signing Day at Pinellas County Schools](#)



# QUARTER 2 UPDATE

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION OBJECTIVE 4: EARN A DISTRICT GRADE OF A



Progress: July 2025 - December 2025



### OBJECTIVE 4 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

#### Record High Graduation Rate

PCS achieved its highest graduation rate ever in the 2024–25 school year, reaching 93.4%, nearly two percentage points higher than last year, and outperforming the state average of 92.2%. All 17 traditional high schools and Nina Harris and Paul B. Stephens exceptional education centers graduated more than 90% of their students.

#### Building Strong Foundations in Math

Modeled after the successful Read Across Pinellas (RAP) initiative, Math Across Pinellas (MAP) provides targeted support to K–2 classrooms with a focus on building early math skills. This approach helps the youngest learners gain confidence and mastery through personalized, high-impact tutoring while strengthening foundational numeracy and preventing future learning gaps. The program also equips teachers with strategies they can use every day, extending MAP’s impact beyond the tutoring sessions.

### FAST FACTS



#### Academic Momentum

District Math and ELA scores outperformed last year’s PM2 results, with year-over-year growth that exceeds the state’s rate of improvement.



#### Graduate Acceleration

The Class of 2025 earned nearly 1,600 more advanced coursework credits than the previous graduating class, the highest in district history.

### PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

[What’s New 2025-26](#)

[Student Performance on State Assessment, January 2026](#)

### COMMUNICATION CORNER

[Pinellas County Schools continues to demonstrate excellence as an 'A' district](#)

[Florida Department of Education shares Progress Monitoring update](#)

[Pinellas County Schools Celebrates Record Graduation Rate of 93.4%](#)



# QUARTER 2 UPDATE

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: SAFE AND RESPECTFUL CLIMATE AND CULTURE OBJECTIVE 5: BUILD POSITIVE, CARING CULTURES OF LEARNING IN EVERY CLASSROOM AND SCHOOL



Progress: July 2025 - December 2025



### OBJECTIVE 5 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

#### Supporting Positive Classroom Culture

PCS partnered with Tampa Bay Thrives, the Juvenile Welfare Board, and other community organizations to support student mental health and well-being through engaging events.

High school students attended the Strike the Stigma Symposium, an event focused on reducing mental health stigma and encouraging healthy coping and wellness. Students learned ways to support themselves and others, and schools will provide follow-up activities to strengthen campus wellness programs throughout the year.

The Feel-Good Farm Event at Pinellas High Innovation gave families a fun, hands-on introduction to the school's new Wellness Room. Families were able to participate in games and activities while exploring the space and learning how it supports student well-being.

Hundreds of high school football athletes participated in a behavioral health program designed to build resilience, provide coping strategies, and foster emotional well-being. Together, these partnerships equip students and families with the tools and support needed to build healthy minds and strong school communities.

### FAST FACTS



#### Attendance Support

PCS strengthened collaboration across departments to better support students who are chronically absent by aligning data use, outreach, and layered interventions. In partnership with the Pinellas Education Foundation, families receive proactive communication, personalized support from school-based Family Connectors, and resources to address barriers like transportation and uniforms.



#### Attendance Trends

Attendance improved in every month of the quarter compared to the previous year, with increases ranging for 3 to 5 percentage points.



### PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

[What's New 2025-26](#)

[Mental Health Plan Update, July 2025](#)

[Discipline Data 2024-25, August 2025](#)

### COMMUNICATION CORNER

[Cyber Ambassador Academy](#)

[Chain Reaction of Care and Kindness](#)

[Strike the Stigma Symposium](#)

# QUARTER 2 UPDATE

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: SAFE AND RESPECTFUL CLIMATE AND CULTURE OBJECTIVE 6: MAINTAIN SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENTS



Progress: July 2025 - December 2025



### OBJECTIVE 6 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

#### Putting Student Safety First

To strengthen student safety, the district will require all school volunteers to complete Level 2 background screening beginning in the 2026–27 school year. This change ensures that every adult volunteering in schools meets the highest safety standards, giving families greater confidence that students are learning in a safe and secure environment.

#### Student Safety Supports

The district continues to support schools in identifying and addressing student needs through School-Based Threat Management Teams. Embedded coaching and enhanced training, including the “Totality of Circumstances” approach, have increased staff confidence in recognizing high-risk behaviors and connecting students to intensive mental health services. Weekly collaboration with the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office Behavioral Threat Management Unit ensures coordinated responses that help keep students safe and supported.

### FAST FACTS



#### Campus Security

In Quarter 2, the district began upgrading to a new video management system across more than 8,000 cameras districtwide and began researching and evaluating the potential use of weapons detection systems on campuses and at events.



#### Countywide Safety

The Crisis Alert Badges have been fully implemented districtwide, and collaboration on response protocols continues with local law enforcement.

### PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

[What’s New 2025-26](#)

[Annual District Safety and Security Report, 2024-25,](#)

[October 2025](#)

[Weapons Detection Pilot, October 2025](#)

[Fingerprinting/Volunteers, December 2025](#)



# QUARTER 2 UPDATE



## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: EQUITY WITH EXCELLENCE FOR ALL OBJECTIVE 7: ELIMINATE GAPS IN OPPORTUNITY, ACCESS AND ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS

Progress: July 2025 - December 2025



### OBJECTIVE 7 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

#### Building Science Vocabulary

To support English Learners (EL) in science, the district developed an EL Science Glossary aligned with state assessments, standards, and test specifications, ensuring students have access to essential science-specific vocabulary during instruction and assessments. This strategy is reinforced by Spanish science word walls with visuals, displayed in classrooms and hallways to provide daily exposure and strengthen comprehension of academic language across grade levels.

#### Graduation Rate

The graduation rate for subgroups increased year over year:

Black Students

- **24/25: 88.0%** | 23/24: 85.1%

Economically Disadvantaged

- **24/25: 89.5%** | 23/24: 86.7%

English Learners

- **24/25: 92.8%** | 23/24: 90.7%

Exceptional Student Education (ESE)

- **24/25: 88.4%** | 23/24: 87.3%

Hispanic Students

- **24/25: 93.5%** | 23/24: 91.6%

### FAST FACTS



#### ELA & Math Achievement

Proficiency in both ELA and Math increased across all subgroups on PM2 compared with the prior year's PM2.



#### Gifted Achievement

Gifted student performance increased compared with the prior year's PM2, with proficiency rising 8 percentage points in Math and 2 percentage points in ELA.

### PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

[What's New 2025-26](#)

### COMMUNICATION CORNER

[Pinellas County Schools celebrates record graduation rate of 93.4%](#)

[Explore Opportunities at the ESE Fair](#)



# QUARTER 2 UPDATE



## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: EQUITY WITH EXCELLENCE FOR ALL OBJECTIVE 8: ACCELERATE PROGRESS OF THE DISTRICT BRIDGING THE GAP PLAN

Progress: July 2025 - December 2025



### OBJECTIVE 8 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

#### Narrowing the Graduation Gap

The 2024-25 graduation rate among Black students rose to 88%, up nearly 3 percentage points from the previous year and nearly 23 percentage points since the plan's inception in the 2015-16 school year. When the Bridging the Gap plan was implemented, the graduation gap between Black and non-Black students was 17.9 percentage points. This gap narrowed in 2024-25 to 6.5% percentage points.

#### Developmental Interventions

All behavior training includes strategies that support young children's healthy social and emotional development. These practices help provide tailored behavioral and developmental interventions, which can reduce referrals for ESE evaluations or the need for ongoing services.

#### Family Engagement

Each high school hosted at least one parent event during Semester 1 focused on graduation requirements and targeted support for off-track seniors, strengthening school-family partnerships to support student success.

### FAST FACTS



#### Community Engagement

PCS shared updates on the Bridging the Gap plan with various community groups, including at four COQEBs meetings, two DMAC meetings, and three Bridging the Gap Advisory meetings.



#### Student Achievement

From PM1 to PM2, the Black subgroup increased ELA proficiency by 8% and math proficiency by 11%, putting students on pace to outperform the 2024-25 school year in both subjects.

### PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

[What's New 2025-26](#)

[Bridging the Gap Year-End Report, September 2025](#)

### COMMUNICATION CORNER

[Listen and Learn: Bridging the Gap, August 2025](#)

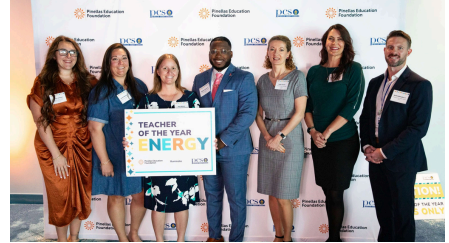


# QUARTER 2 UPDATE

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: POSITIVE STAFF EXPERIENCES OBJECTIVE 9: ATTRACT AND RETAIN OUTSTANDING FACULTY AND STAFF



Progress: July 2025 - December 2025



### OBJECTIVE 9 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

#### PCS Honors Outstanding Staff

Carlos Childs, Family & Community Liaison at Campbell Park Elementary, was named the 2025–26 PCS Support Employee of the Year. Semi-finalists and finalists were honored at a December awards luncheon.

Teachers of the Year were celebrated at an October luncheon, and the top ten finalists were surprised by classroom visits from Superintendent Hendrick, district leaders, administrators, and family members as their finalist status was announced.

The district also honored its 2025–26 Administrators of the Year: Kristy James, principal at Ponce de Leon Elementary, and Brooke Crandall, assistant principal at Madeira Beach Fundamental.

#### Teacher Apprenticeship Program: Cohort 2

In partnership with St. Petersburg College, the Teacher Apprenticeship Program enrolled nine new apprentices in the second cohort. The apprentices are pursuing bachelor's degrees in Exceptional Student Education, Elementary Education, or PreK–Primary Education. Through this tuition-free pathway, they'll graduate with a bachelor's degree, and endorsements in Reading and ESOL.

### FAST FACTS



#### Employee Childcare

PCS Employee Childcare was awarded Cognia's Accredited with Merit Status, a distinction recognized worldwide.



#### Intern Recruitment

PCS hosted 31 teaching interns in the fall semester and hired 14 of them to fill full-time instructional positions.

### PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

[What's New 2025-26](#)

#### COMMUNICATION CORNER

[District announces the 2025-2026 Support Employee of the Year finalists](#)

[Pinellas County Schools Announces 2025-26 Principal and Assistant Principal of the Year](#)

[Teachers of the Year Celebration Luncheon](#)

[Soaring to Excellence: Top 10 Teacher of the Year Finalists](#)

[PCS Employee Child Care Program earns global recognition for excellence](#)

[PCS announces Support Employee of the Year](#)

[Pinellas County Schools' annual Stakeholder Survey is underway.](#)



# QUARTER 2 UPDATE



## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: POSITIVE STAFF EXPERIENCES OBJECTIVE 10: INVEST IN ALL STAFF THROUGH CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Progress: July 2025 - December 2025



### OBJECTIVE 10 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

#### Investing in First-Year Teachers

The district strengthened support for beginning teachers by pairing first-year educators with trained mentors, improving coaching programs, and introducing real-time feedback tools to help new teachers grow quickly.

#### Teacher Exchange Program

The PCS Teacher Exchange Program, a part of the Clearwater/Nagano (Japan) Sister Cities partnership, sends two educators to live and teach in Nagano for one month each summer. Participants teach English in elementary and middle schools while immersing themselves in Japanese language and culture, an experience that expands their global awareness and enriches instruction.

#### Certificate of Distinction

At the annual Certificate of Distinction (COD) Breakfast, PCS honored 105 support employees for their commitment to ongoing professional growth. To earn a COD I, employees complete 65 hours of professional development, while COD II requires 150 hours. Through the program, participants build new skills and receive financial bonuses in recognition of their achievement.

### FAST FACTS



#### Job-Embedded Professional Learning

Job-Embedded Professional Learning for teachers was delivered to 29 schools, resulting in over 1,500 teacher impact hours.



#### AHA Moments Podcast

PCS produces the AHA Moments podcast to promote teacher-to-teacher learning and share effective practices across the community. The most recent episode features insights into planning and facilitating strategy walks, as well as how educators adjust instruction based on what they observe.

### PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

[What's New 2025-26](#)

[Professional Learning Catalog, August 2025](#)

[PCS Community Listen and Learn, December 2025](#)

### COMMUNICATION CORNER

[The Teacher Apprenticeship Program welcomes 2<sup>nd</sup> Cohort](#)

[Employees honored at Certificate of Distinction Breakfast](#)



# QUARTER 2 UPDATE

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5: STRONG CONNECTIONS AND COMMUNICATION OBJECTIVE 11: DEEPEN AUTHENTIC ENGAGEMENT WITH FAMILIES DISTRICTWIDE



Progress: July 2025 - December 2025



### OBJECTIVE 11 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

#### Experience PCS

Nearly 5,000 people attended the 4th annual Experience PCS event, a districtwide celebration showcasing programs, student talent, and hands-on learning opportunities. From award-winning chalk murals to interactive STEM activities aboard the Innovation Lab STEAM bus, families experienced PCS learning together. The event deepens engagement by helping families understand and actively participate in the opportunities that support their students' success.

#### Improving the Mentor Experience

PCS introduced an interactive, on-demand Mentor Workshop that offers mentors a more flexible and accessible way to complete required training. The format includes embedded assessments and enhanced audiovisual features that enhance the learning experience. As a result, the number of mentors supporting students has increased by 240 districtwide.

### FAST FACTS

3.5x

#### Volunteer Hours of Service

More than 21,500 active volunteers contributed approximately 80,000 hours of service in Quarter 2.



#### Great American Teach-in

The Great American Teach-In provided nearly 9,500 volunteer hours, inspiring students with the wide range of career opportunities available to them.

### PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

[What's New 2025-26](#)

[Fingerprinting Volunteers, December 2025](#)

### COMMUNICATION CORNER

[Donuts with Grownups](#)

[Oakhurst Elementary Community Kindness](#)

[Starkey Elementary's 39<sup>th</sup> annual Canned Food Drive](#)

[PCS celebrates Veteran's Day with community](#)

[PCS shares emergency food resources to support families](#)

[Pinellas County Schools is partnering with the Juvenile Welfare Board to empower families and keep students safe online](#)



# QUARTER 2 UPDATE

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5: STRONG CONNECTIONS AND COMMUNICATION OBJECTIVE 12: LEVERAGE PARTNERSHIPS THAT SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS



Progress: July 2025 - December 2025



### OBJECTIVE 12 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

#### Digital Engagement Improvements

PCS is expanding its use of the Onflo platform to strengthen two-way communication with the community. The new public landing page features an AI-powered chatbot and makes it easier for families and partners to find information on volunteering, mentoring, and community engagement. Staff also participated in collaborative training with neighboring districts to ensure strong, consistent implementation.

#### Florida Legislative Advocacy

In addition to the local Legislative Platform, the School Board hosted the Pinellas Legislative Delegation in October for a conversation focused on advancing public education locally. The board has provided input into and supports the Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards and the Florida School Board Association's Legislative Platforms. Board members actively visit Tallahassee to advocate for PCS students, staff, and public schools.

### FAST FACTS



#### Girls on the Run

PCS expanded its partnership with Girls on the Run, growing participation to 11 schools, while the Tampa Bay Rays enhanced their support by providing essential items to participating students.



#### Kids Wish Network

Partnership with Kids Wish Network provided \$2,500 in gift cards to students, helping meet urgent needs and support their well-being.

### PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

[What's New 2025-26](#)

[Pinellas County School Board Legislative Platform, 2025](#)

[Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards, December 2025](#)

### COMMUNICATION CORNER

[Independent committee reviews Referendum spending](#)

[The Great American Teach-In](#)

[Champion of Education and education partners honored at the ChangeMakers Breakfast](#)

[Federal Funding Community Forum, July 2025](#)

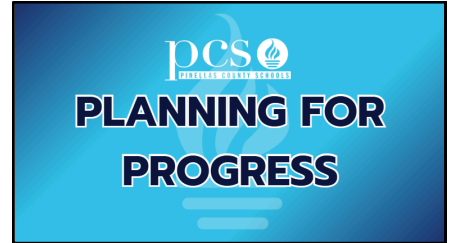


# QUARTER 2 UPDATE

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5: STRONG CONNECTIONS AND COMMUNICATION**  
**OBJECTIVE 13: DELIVER ENGAGING AND CONSISTENT COMMUNICATIONS TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS**



Progress: July 2025 - December 2025



## OBJECTIVE 13 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

### Alumni Voices

PCS highlights the diverse journeys of its graduates by sharing stories from alumni including former Clearwater athlete and FSU basketball coach Luke Loucks and St. Petersburg College President Dr. Tonjua Williams. These stories honor the district's legacy and show current students the real-world possibilities their education can lead to.

### New PCS District and School Websites

Pinellas County Schools has launched modernized district and school websites on the Finalsite platform. The new sites feature improved navigation, accessibility, and a consistent user experience, along with quick-access tools for enrollment, donations, and key resources for families, students, and the community. Enhancements will continue as the district gathers feedback to further improve access to information and communication.

## FAST FACTS



### YouTube

PCS produced 64 videos and increased its YouTube audience by 260 subscribers, bringing the total to nearly 11,000.



### TV Eyes: Media Coverage

According to TVEyes.com, local TV, radio, and podcasts shared 353 stories about PCS, reaching a potential audience of 13.5 million.

## PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

[What's New 2025-26](#)

[Enrollment Update, September 2025](#)

[Planning for Progress, December 2025](#)

## COMMUNICATION CORNER

[Listen and Learn, October 2025](#)

[TogetherPCS, October 2025](#)

[TogetherPCS, November 2025](#)

[TogetherPCS, December 2025](#)

Connect with us!



en Español



# QUARTER 2 UPDATE

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6: FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OBJECTIVE 14: SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITION STRATEGIES FUNDED BY ESSER/ARP



Progress: July 2025 - December 2025



### OBJECTIVE 14 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

This objective was updated during the Midyear Update and Annual Report through March 2025. The grants have closed and been audited; there will be no additional updates for 2025-26.

#### ESSER/ARP Drawdown

All ESSER/ARP funds allocated to non-charter schools were successfully utilized within the designated timeframe, meeting the September 2024 deadline.

#### State Monitoring of Federal Funds

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) completed a monitoring audit of federal ESSER II and GEER II funding in 2025, with zero findings reported. The auditors highlighted several areas where PCS demonstrated best practices.

PCS is committed to applying the insights gained from this monitoring session to ensure best practices are consistently implemented across all grants.

## PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

[Grants Update, June 2023](#)

[ESSER/ARP Financial Update, October 2023](#)

[ESSER/ARP Digital Resources Review, February 2024](#)

[What's New for the 2024–25 School Year, July 2024](#)

[Successful use of ESSER/ARP Update, March 2025](#)

[National Assessment of Educational Progress, February 2025](#)

[Annual Budget 2025-26, June 2025](#)

[Annual Budget Update 2025-26, August 2025](#)



# QUARTER 2 UPDATE

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6: FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OBJECTIVE 15: INCREASE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION



Progress: July 2025 - December 2025



### OBJECTIVE 15 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

#### Passenger Van Integration

PCS introduced passenger vans as a cost-effective and flexible way to transport extended transition and unhoused students. This model has generated approximately \$40,000 in savings during the first semester by reducing fuel consumption, lowering driver wage costs, and minimizing training needs, while continuing to provide reliable transportation for students.

#### Recognizing Bus Drive Safety

PCS school bus drivers safely transport more than 21,000 students every day. In November, 41 drivers were honored at a Safe Driver Luncheon for achieving over 10 years of safe driving, including 11 with more than 20 years and one remarkable driver with 32 years of safe service.

### FAST FACTS



#### Driver Surplus

In Quarter 2, PCS continued to streamline bus operations and maintained the driver surplus with 321 bus drivers for 304 routes.



#### On-time Arrival

The number of late school bus notifications decreased by 40% between Quarter 1 and Quarter 2.

### PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

[What's New 2025-26](#)



# QUARTER 2 UPDATE



## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6: FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OBJECTIVE 16: PROVIDE STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES, TECHNOLOGY, AND RESOURCES

Progress: July 2025 - December 2025



### OBJECTIVE 16 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

#### Streamlined Digital Enrollment System

The digital K–12 enrollment process has been consolidated onto the same platform used for student information. Families can now enroll their children in the 2026–27 school year and apply for District Application Programs through a single, secure online system. This change reduces steps and simplifies the process for families.

#### Planning for Progress

As the number of school-age children in Pinellas County continues to decline and state requirements evolve, PCS launched a long-term facilities and program planning effort in fall 2025 to ensure resources are used effectively and every student has access to strong, sustainable schools. Between September and December, more than 600 stakeholders participated in community meetings and provided feedback that is directly informing the recommendations presented to the School Board.

### FAST FACTS



#### Scratch Cooking

The USDA recognized the PCS scratch-cooking initiative with its “Innovation in the Preparation of School Meals” award. More than 5,500 scratch-made meals have been served to students, offering fresher flavors and healthier options.



#### PCS Connects Devices

The district launched a new centralized device-repair model that reduces family costs by more than 50% and shortens the average service turnaround time by over 60%.

### PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

[What’s New 2025-26](#)

[School Business Services, July 2025](#)

[Enrollment Update, September 2025](#)

[Internal Audit Update, October 2025](#)

[Food and Nutrition Update, December 2025](#)

[Special Projects Annual Report, December 2025](#)

### COMMUNICATION CORNER

[Pinellas County Schools celebrates grand opening of the Dr. Michael A. Grego Leadership Institute](#)

