



DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN

QUARTER 1 REPORT

2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Progress from **July 2025** through **September 2025**

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



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 1 UPDATE

This update highlights actions and progress toward each strategic priority and objective within the DSP from July 2025 through September 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 1 UPDATE

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



Progress: July 2025 - September 2025



OBJECTIVE 1 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Art Meets History and Language Arts

Second-grade students are visiting the James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art. This field trip was designed by second-grade educators to support learning in English Language Arts, social studies, and art, with a special focus on Native American history. Teachers previewed the museum experience and collaborated to create hands-on, interdisciplinary classroom lessons that will make the visit both meaningful and memorable for students.

Summer Reading Challenge Sparks Confidence in Rising 6th Graders

To promote a strong start to middle school, incoming sixth graders participated in a Summer Reading Challenge. Students received a grade-level novel that connected science concepts with literacy, then engaged in a cross-curricular digital escape room and earned prizes and recognition from their principals for their participation.

Gaming with Purpose

To prepare students for success in a digital future, the district launched an esports program that combines fun with purpose. Featuring Nintendo games and chess, these structured tournaments promote safe, competitive play while developing leadership, teamwork, and career-ready skills that support of district initiatives in digital responsibility, AI literacy, and workforce readiness.

FAST FACTS



Summer Camps

PCS provided 58 summer camps serving nearly 2,400 students in summer 2025.



STEM Explorer Clubs

STEM Explorer Clubs are offered in 90% of elementary schools, providing more than 2,000 students with weekly hands-on engineering and robotics challenges that strengthen problem-solving and teamwork skills.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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

[District and School Grades](#)

COMMUNICATION CORNER

[Pinellas All-County K-12 Art Exhibition showcases nearly 1,600 works of art](#)

[Northeast High School crowned champion of the Raider Invitational](#)



QUARTER 1 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 - September 2025



OBJECTIVE 2 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Pinellas Early Learning Initiative (PELI)

The Pinellas Early Learning Initiative (PELI) expanded to include six additional schools in 2025-26, bringing the total of 24. The initiative provides in-class coaching and teacher training to improve student reading skills.

Early Childhood Institute

The 2025 PCS Early Childhood Institute supported over 650 Pre-K through Grade 2 teachers with nearly 100 professional development sessions covering topics like classroom environments, family engagement, and individualized education plans.

Continuing to Outperform the State

PCS kindergarten and second-grade students outperformed the state by 4% on the PM1 literacy assessments. While first-grade proficiency matched the state, a greater percentage of PCS first graders took the more advanced STAR Reading test. These results indicate that PCS students are beginning each grade with stronger literacy skills.

FAST FACTS



Kindergarten Readiness

PCS ranked third in the state for Kindergarten Readiness, showing that PCS VPK students are well-prepared to enter elementary school.



Community Collaboration

When preschool educators and Kindergarten teachers work together, children are better prepared for school. Therefore, PCS and the Early Learning Coalition will support local preschool educators during the 2026 PCS Early Childhood Institute.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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



QUARTER 1 UPDATE



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

Progress: July 2025 - September 2025



OBJECTIVE 3 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Elevating Excellence Test Prep

Preparation for college entrance exams has expanded to include the Classic Learning Test (CLT), which is accepted to earn Bright Futures scholarships beginning in the 2025-26 school year. The CLT exam fee will be waived for Elevating Excellence students who demonstrate growth on the program's pre- and post-tests or attend at least 60% of the sessions.

College Credits Earned in High School

PCS high school students earned nearly 25,000 college credits in 2024-25, an 8% increase since 2022-23. The 2025-26 school year started with more than 40% of PCS high school students enrolled in an AP course, 15% in a dual enrollment course, and nearly 30% enrolled in an IB or AICE course, giving students the opportunity to earn college credit and save tuition costs.

FAST FACTS



FAFSA Completion Events

PCS hosted two districtwide Financial Aid Nights, along with the 17 FAFSA nights hosted by each high school.



Career Dual Enrollment

Student participation in career dual enrollment courses through Pinellas Technical College increased 13% to more than 1,200.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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

COMMUNICATION CORNER

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



QUARTER 1 UPDATE

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



Progress: July 2025 - September 2025



OBJECTIVE 4 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Ready, Set, Algebra!

The middle and high school math departments launched a new initiative called Ready, Set, Algebra. It provides robust training for teachers and administrators, along with targeted strategies and personalized tools—such as online tutoring platforms—to help students master key concepts. A new in-person tutoring component, launching in the second semester, will provide trained tutors and focused lessons to help students overcome the most challenging math benchmarks. This comprehensive approach ensures every student is on track for success in Algebra I by the end of 9th grade.

High School Acceleration

To ensure all high school students graduate ready for college or a career, each high school has mapped clear pathways for students in every grade to earn college credit, technical coursework, or industry certifications on campus. School counselors are being trained to effectively guide students and families through these opportunities. By the end of 2026, 75% of graduating seniors are expected to complete an accelerated course or program, giving them a strong start on their future.

FAST FACTS



PCS is an A-Rated District

PCS earned an "A" rating for the second consecutive year.



School Grades

90% of PCS schools earned an A or B, and every PCS school earned an A, B, or C.

- 66 "A" schools
- 37 "B" schools
- 13 "C" schools

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

What's New 2025-26

COMMUNICATION CORNER

Pinellas County Schools continues to demonstrate excellence as an 'A' district



QUARTER 1 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 - September 2025



OBJECTIVE 5 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Student Mental Health

To enhance mental health support for all students, including those who may be overlooked due to high academic achievement, PCS launched a new initiative focused on the mental and emotional well-being of high-achieving students. PCS is implementing family-centered information sessions, student screenings at select schools, and follow-up meetings to review results and connect families with appropriate resources.

Intervention Centers

PCS established Intervention Centers (IC) in all middle and high schools as a proactive strategy to address behavioral, emotional, and academic challenges in a supportive, structured environment. The centers provide a space where students receive personalized support through guided conversations with trained staff. Students learn how to manage emotions, take responsibility, and stay connected to their schoolwork. This approach helps students return to class with a clear mindset and stronger skills, creating a more positive and productive school environment for everyone.

FAST FACTS



Positive Student Engagement

Student attendance and discipline data have improved districtwide compared to the same time last year. The percentage of students attending school more than 90% has increased by 5 points, and the percentage of students with disciplinary referrals has decreased by 14 points.



School Climate & Behavior

Over 500 staff members joined the Student Services Summer Mental Health trainings, building skills to support student well-being across our schools.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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

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

COMMUNICATION CORNER

[Cyber Ambassador Academy](#)



QUARTER 1 UPDATE

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



Progress: July 2025 - September 2025



OBJECTIVE 6 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Student-Centered Safety

All students participated in Sandy Hook Promise's Start with Hello Week, a nationwide initiative that encourages new ways to make peer connections and create a stronger sense of belonging at school. The Superintendent and Pinellas County Sheriff reminded students and staff about the See Something, Say Something anonymous reporting app, which empowers all students and staff to speak up about safety concerns. The video reinforced the "Safety Starts with Me" message, reminding everyone that safety is a shared responsibility.

Proactive School Safety

The District Threat Management Team is enhancing student safety processes by using a new safety platform, providing specialized training for schools, and working closely with law enforcement to identify and prevent risks before they occur. These efforts ensure a coordinated, proactive approach to safety across all district schools.

FAST FACTS



Campus Security

Centegix, the districtwide crisis alert system, is fully operational across all 132 sites, ensuring every staff member is trained and equipped for emergency lockdown procedures.



Countywide Safety

The district partnered with the Sheriff's Department, all police, fire and EMS agencies throughout the county to train on and improve procedures for countywide reunification.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

What's New 2025-26



QUARTER 1 UPDATE



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

Progress: July 2025 - September 2025



OBJECTIVE 7 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Brain Builders: Boosting Scientific Thinking

Brain Builders help students tackle challenging questions by breaking complex thinking into simple, manageable steps. Using strategies like guided discussions and sentence starters, these resources and steps make problem-solving easier and more automatic over time with practice. Included in every Biology unit, Brain Builders support all learners, especially those who need extra help, by building confidence and improving understanding of key concepts.

Strengthening Family Partnerships Through Multilingual Outreach

Schools are actively collaborating with families to strengthen school-home partnerships, especially for English Learner (EL) families. Elementary schools offered in-person and virtual workshops to help parents support early literacy and language development at home. Middle schools offered multilingual transition workshops and college and career readiness sessions, while high schools hosted events such as dual enrollment workshops, financial aid nights, and graduation requirement sessions in families' home languages. Districtwide outreach, resource fairs, and community partnerships ensured families have access to the tools and information they need for student success.

FAST FACTS



Boys Read Camps

Camp Read Strong was designed for boys and blended reading with hands-on activities, competitive challenges, and fun team-based quests—all while building their reading skills. The students hosted a media day with local news outlets to showcase their work.



ESE Graduation

The percentage of ESE students on track for graduation, increased by nearly 4% compared to Quarter 1 2024-25.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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



QUARTER 1 UPDATE

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



Progress: July 2025 - September 2025



OBJECTIVE 8 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Reading and Math Tutoring

Read Across Pinellas (RAP) tutors are helping close reading achievement gaps in 65 elementary schools. To build on this success, the district is developing a similar math program—Math Across Pinellas (MAP). MAP tutors will focus on strengthening students' foundational math skills, including fluency and automaticity.

Discipline to Decision-Making Training

A summer districtwide professional development session was conducted for all administrators titled "Bridging the Gap from Discipline to Decision Making," designed to challenge traditional narratives around student discipline and equip leaders with proactive, restorative approaches that position discipline as a teachable moment.

Bridging the Gap Listen & Learn

The PCS Bridging the Gap Listen and Learn session offered an open forum for dialogue and feedback, ensuring district leaders were accessible and responsive. Held both in person and virtually, the session featured a presentation, Q&A, and direct conversations—highlighting the district's commitment to transparency and collaboration.

FAST FACTS



Graduation Rates

All student groups are showing improved progress toward graduation compared to Quarter 1 last year. Notably, the percentage of Black students on track to graduate has increased by nearly 8%.



Student Supports

The student support request process is becoming more efficient and effective. In the first quarter of 2025–26, resources were used 392 times—a 120% increase from 178 uses in the same period last year.

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 1 UPDATE

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



Progress: July 2025 - September 2025



OBJECTIVE 9 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Tax Referendum Salary Increases

Following voter approval to increase the property tax referendum to one mill, classroom teachers began receiving an additional \$4,114 in salary for the 2025–26 school year, an average increase of 4%. This new amount brings their total referendum-funded enhancement to \$11,081, reflecting the combined original half-mill and the recent increase to one mill. As a result, starting teacher pay now stands at \$58,348, positioning PCS among the most competitive districts in Florida. For the first time, Support, Professional, Technical, and Supervisory employees also benefit from referendum funds, receiving an additional \$2,910, an average increase of 7.6%.

Teacher Apprenticeship Program

PCS was awarded nearly \$500,000 by the state legislature to continue its Teacher Apprenticeship Program. The partnership with St. Petersburg College is growing, and a new group of apprentices will be selected in 2026.

FAST FACTS



Rise with PCS

Rise with PCS is an upcoming video series featuring inspiring stories of support staff who have advanced their careers within the district, celebrating their achievements and motivating others to grow with PCS.



PCS Praise Employee Recognition

In the first quarter, more than 2,200 employees were recognized by their peers for exemplifying the district's core values, a 5% increase compared to last year.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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

COMMUNICATION CORNER

[Embrace Pinellas](#)

[Superintendent Kevin Hendrick named Florida Art Education Association Superintendent of the Year](#)

[Executive Director of CTAE receives state recognition for his visionary leadership](#)

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



QUARTER 1 UPDATE



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

Progress: July 2025 - September 2025



OBJECTIVE 10 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

AI Pathfinders

AI Pathfinders is a yearlong professional learning program that helps teachers understand the fundamentals of AI, develop responsible classroom practices, and collaborate with other educators. This initiative ensures teachers and students are prepared for the future.

2025 PULSE Summit

The 2025 PULSE Summit exceeded capacity, offering more than 28 professional learning topics on emerging educational practices, including AI in the classroom, STEM bins, escape rooms for learning, and student-produced films. Over 150 teachers participated, exploring innovative tools and strategies designed to keep learning fun in the classroom.

Science Meets Agriculture

PCS developed a hands-on Biotechnology and Inheritance training to strengthen instruction in areas where students struggled on the Biology End-of-Course exam. Through partnerships with MiniOne and the Florida Dairy Council, 21 Biology teachers will complete a gel electrophoresis lab to analyze dairy cow genetics and tour a working farm to see science in action. Each teacher will receive lab kits to bring this real-world experience back to their classrooms.

FAST FACTS



Transition to Teaching

Participation in the Transition-to-Teaching program nearly doubled, adding 38 new members for a total of 60.



Teaching Interns

PCS is helping 31 teaching interns gain real-world experience by learning directly in Pinellas classrooms.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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

[Professional Learning Catalog](#)

COMMUNICATION CORNER

[AHA Moments Podcast](#)



QUARTER 1 UPDATE

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



Progress: July 2025 - September 2025



OBJECTIVE 11 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Mentor Training

PCS has trained over 200 new mentors, and mentor training is now available on demand, providing flexible training options for community members to support group mentoring programs such as Lunch Pals.

Experience PCS

Families will discover exciting learning opportunities and explore District Application Programs while enjoying hands-on activities, competitions, and demonstrations. Experience PCS is a fun-filled day for families and the community to connect, play, and celebrate student and school success.

FAST FACTS



Back-To-School

PCS participated in or promoted over 30 Back-to-School community events, distributing 300 donated backpacks filled with school supplies.



Active Volunteers

PCS welcomed approximately 2,000 new volunteers. More than 18,000 active volunteers have given nearly 22,000 hours of service.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

What's New 2025-26

COMMUNICATION CORNER

Tarpon alum digs into role as Pinellas County extension agent

PTC Students give free haircuts to Campbell Park students

PCS celebrates Grandparents Day.



QUARTER 1 UPDATE

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



Progress: July 2025 - September 2025



OBJECTIVE 12 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Partnering for Students

PCS is teaming up with local cities, agencies, and companies--such as the Florida Department of Health and Honeywell--to bring mentors into schools, helping students feel supported and engaged. Additionally, businesses like Red Robin, Andy's Frozen Custard, SportClips, and Texas Roadhouse are partnering to fundraise for school programs.

Legislative Platform

The School Board developed its annual legislative platform and hosted a meeting with the Pinellas Legislative Delegation to advocate on behalf of students and staff. This platform outlines the Board's positions on key education issues to be discussed during the state legislative session and helps inform the statewide school board platform.

Investing in Education

The Tax Referendum is directly supporting students and classrooms by funding field trips, expanding visual and performing arts classes, and providing pay increases for all instructional and support staff. This year, more than 1,000 students have attended field trips made possible by the Referendum.

FAST FACTS



STEM Center with ARK Educate

The district is collaborating with ARK Educate to develop a STEM Center for students districtwide.



Student Volunteers

PCS volunteers include 2,738 student volunteers.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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

COMMUNICATION CORNER

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

[Oversight committee sees Referendum funds in action](#)

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

[Tampa Bay School Supply Drive benefits 30 schools](#)

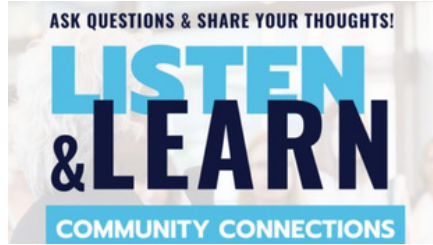


QUARTER 1 UPDATE

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



Progress: July 2025 - September 2025



OBJECTIVE 13 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

TogetherPCS Alumni Spotlight

PCS is strengthening alumni connections through its monthly digital newsletter, Together PCS. In the first quarter, the district featured three inspiring alumni stories that celebrated the achievements of former students and their impact beyond PCS.

New PCS Websites Coming in 2026

The district and school websites are on track for deployment in 2026. Following last year's planning and stakeholder engagement, teams are now finalizing design and development, migrating content from current webpages to an internal SharePoint and the new district platform. These updates will deliver a modern, user-friendly experience for all stakeholders.

FAST FACTS



Community Connections

PCS welcomed the community to engage with the school board, superintendent, and district leaders during a Listen and Learn session in August. The feedback is used to inform continuous improvement efforts.



New Superintendent Instagram

The Superintendent's new Instagram account has **680 followers with 120 following in September.**

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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

COMMUNICATION CORNER

[TogetherPCS, September 2025](#)

Connect with us!



en Español



QUARTER 1 UPDATE

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



Progress: July 2025 - September 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 no 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 1 UPDATE

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



Progress: July 2025 - September 2025



OBJECTIVE 15 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Passenger Van Integration

PCS has introduced passenger vans as a cost-effective, flexible solution for transporting extended transition and unhoused students. Currently, nine vans complete 15 runs daily, serving 72 students. This approach saves costs through reduced fuel use, lower driver wages, and minimized training requirements, while ensuring reliable transportation for those who need it most.

Driver Surplus

For the 2025–26 school year, PCS streamlined bus operations and reduced routes from 324 to 305—surpassing the goal of 314. With 326 drivers now employed, the district has more drivers than routes. This means faster response to driver absences, fewer late buses, and shorter delays for families.

FAST FACTS



Safety First

100% of PCS bus drivers passed the CDL visual inspection exam, which includes a thorough check and problem-solving of any issues regarding lights, tires, brakes, and steering, ensuring safe and reliable transportation for every student.



Reduced Call Volume

By sharing bus stop assignments early and proactively with families this summer, PCS reduced call volume and avoided the need for additional call center staff during peak times.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

What's New 2025-26



QUARTER 1 UPDATE



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

Progress: July 2025 - September 2025



OBJECTIVE 16 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Gulf Beaches Elementary Welcomes Students for the First Time Since Hurricane Helene

After enduring significant damage from last year's hurricanes, Gulf Beaches Elementary students and staff returned to campus for the first time in nearly a year. The school hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house prior to the first day of school.

Scratch Cooking

The Food & Nutrition Department expanded scratch cooking to provide fresher flavors and healthier meals to students in schools. Each school served one scratch-made dish weekly, introducing nearly 5,000 students to recipes like beef nachos, tater tot casserole, and chili mac. Staff also received specialized training on working with raw ingredients, food safety, and presentation, including an inservice led by a Florida Department of Agriculture chef.

Enrollment Strategies

As the number of school-age children in Pinellas County declines, PCS is engaging the community to help plan for the future of its schools. District leaders will share current data and gather input on topics such as enrollment trends, facility use, new programs, grade configurations, and potential school consolidations or closures. This collaborative process ensures decisions reflect community priorities and student needs.

FAST FACTS



Facilities Projects

Seminole High School is undergoing new construction, renovations and remodel, which is set to conclude in 2027.



Enterprise Resource Planning

PCS is on track for the ERP system go-live in October 2026. Work is underway on profiles, permissions, and applicant tracking, while the Student Information System has transitioned to a hosted platform integrated with ERP.



PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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

[School Business Services, July 2025](#)

[Enrollment Update, September 2025](#)

COMMUNICATION CORNER

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