

QUARTER 3 UPDATE

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



Progress: July 2025 - March 2026



OBJECTIVE 1 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Performing Arts Ignite Expansion

PCS Performing Arts Ignite programs continue to grow. What began as a summer camp has since expanded to include a youth choir, a theatrical camp in New York City, and the Ignite Invitational, a music concert and clinic featuring five musical disciplines. This year, the Invitational expanded to include an Elementary Honor Choir, welcoming 50 elementary students to perform at USF alongside more than 100 secondary honor choral students.

School Board of the Year

The School Board was named the Florida Music Education Association 2026 School Board of the Year, becoming the first-ever entire School Board to be recognized by the FMEA. Superintendent Hendrick was also named as 2026 FMEA Superintendent of the Year. These honors recognize outstanding efforts to support quality music education.

Ball Hockey Tournament

PCS hosted the 3rd Annual Ball Hockey Tournament, sponsored by the Tampa Bay Lightning. Elementary participation more than doubled from last year, with teams from charter schools and neighboring Hillsborough and Pasco counties joining the competition. Middle school participation also doubled, increasing from four to eight teams. The tournament reflects the continued expansion of the Lightning's Hockey-in-Schools program, which engages PCS students annually through PE classes.

FAST FACTS



Field Trips

More than 17,000 students participated in hands-on, curriculum-aligned field trips and academic experiences, expanding access to meaningful, real-world learning opportunities throughout the district.



Esports

The Spring 2026 Esports season expanded to nine high schools, engaging students in structured district match days and a culminating districtwide competition that fostered collaboration, leadership, and college- and career-ready skills through safe, monitored gameplay.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

What's New 2025-26

District and School Grades, July 2025

Summer Bridge & Summer Camps, Jan 2026

Student Performance on State Assessment, January 2026

Athletics Update, Feb 2026

COMMUNICATION CORNER

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



QUARTER 3 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 - March 2026**



OBJECTIVE 2 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Early Literacy in Kindergarten

The Pinellas Early Literacy Initiative (PELI) expanded to six additional schools and now serves 24 schools. The program provides data-driven supports and strengthens early literacy instruction for students with the greatest need. For example, 53% of incoming kindergarten students scored kindergarten-ready on the STAR Early Literacy PM1 assessment. By PM2, 65% of students who did not initially meet the readiness threshold (more than 1,300 students) scored kindergarten-ready.

Ready, Set... Kindergarten

Incoming kindergarten families were invited to their schools to meet teachers, tour the campus, begin registration, and preview kindergarten before the fall. Families were also invited back to campus for a future campus event, such as Science Expo Night.

Rising Kindergarten

PCS offers a special summer program, Rising Kindergarten, for children entering kindergarten in August 2026. Designed to help young learners prepare for kindergarten, Rising Kindergarten blends learning and development through singing, playing, and dancing. Registration for the June program opened in March.

FAST FACTS



K-2 Math Supports

Math Across Pinellas (MAP) tutoring was implemented in Quarter 3 to strengthen foundational math skills for students in grades K–2. Modeled after the Read Across Pinellas (RAP) framework, MAP builds early math fluency through targeted, small-group instruction during the school day. MAP tutors receive specialized training and resources, and classroom teachers receive curriculum resources aligned with MAP.

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 3 UPDATE



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

Progress: **July 2025 - March 2026**



OBJECTIVE 3 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Record-High Graduation Rate

During the 2024–25 school year, PCS achieved its highest graduation rate on record, 93.4%, nearly two percentage points higher than the previous year. PCS ranks above the state average and among Florida's top large districts.

Jill of All Trades

Students are gaining hands-on experience in high-demand careers at Pinellas Technical College. The spring Jill of All Trades event introduced middle and high school girls to skilled trades through workshops in electrical manufacturing and construction.

PTC Provides Free Tuition

Pinellas Technical College hosted more than 250 high school students for National Signing Day, during which students committed to skilled trades and other in-demand programs. Students who committed to PTC will receive free tuition for their first term.

FAST FACTS



FAFSA Completion

PCS has surpassed the state-established FAFSA completion target and continues to exceed benchmarks, with completion rates 10 percentage points higher than the prior year.



College Credit Increase

In Fall 2025, PCS students earned more than 11,500 Dual Enrollment credit hours, the highest total on record and a 3% increase despite declining enrollment.

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](#)

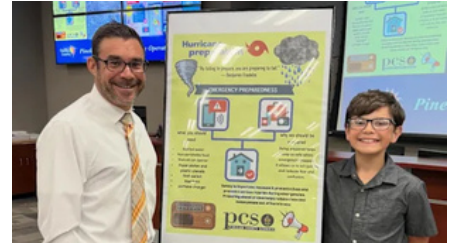


QUARTER 3 UPDATE

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



Progress: July 2025 - March 2026



OBJECTIVE 4 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Middle School Math Proficiency

The Ready, Set, Algebra initiative focused on strengthening middle school mathematics instruction to build foundational skills that directly support success in Algebra. The program provides teacher training and instructional resources that offer students targeted practice and interactive, personalized online guidance. The impact of these efforts is reflected in student performance on the Math PM2 assessment, on which students in grades 6–8 scored three percentage points higher than the state.

Surpassing the State in PM 2 Assessments

PCS student proficiency and year-over-year growth surpassed the state average across grades K–10 on STAR and FAST ELA PM2 assessments and in FAST Math PM2 in nearly all grades. All results are available through the public Strategic Plan Dashboard.



FAST FACTS



High School ELA Achievement

PM2 results demonstrate year-over-year growth in secondary ELA achievement, with ninth-grade proficiency rising by eight percentage points to 55% and tenth-grade proficiency increasing by six percentage points to 52%.



Growth in Biology

Districtwide proficiency on the Biology Cycle 2 assessment increased from 63% to 70% year over year.

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%](#)

