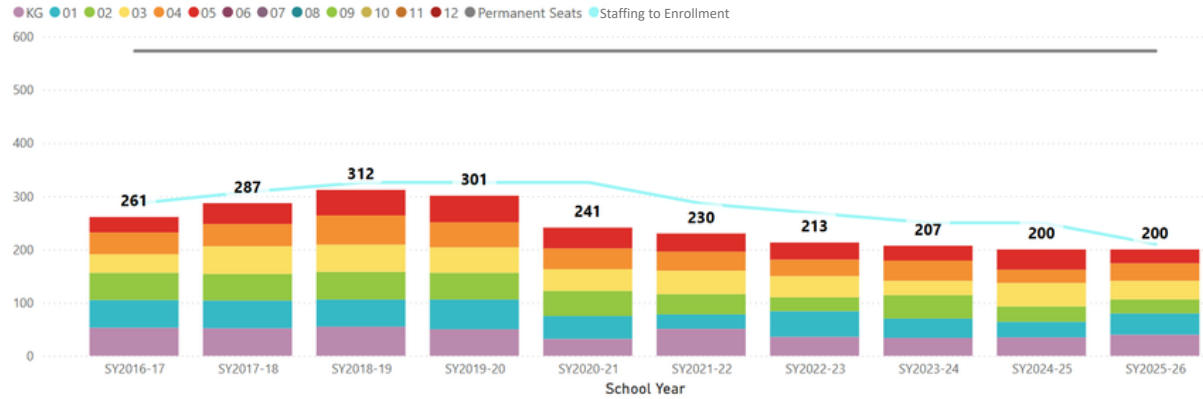


RECOMMENDATION: CLOSE AND REPURPOSE KINGS HIGHWAY ELEMENTARY

This recommendation **closes Kings Highway Elementary School (KHES) at the end of the 2026-27 school year**. Kings Highway Elementary currently serves 168 students in grades K-5, 75 PreK students, and 20 students in a full-time Exceptional Student Education (ESE) program. The ESE program will transition to Sandy Lane Elementary. PreK will remain at Kings Highway Elementary. Transportation may be provided in alignment with School Board policy. If Board approved, the recommendation includes repurposing or leasing the Kings Highway Elementary property for childcare and early learning.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND HISTORY

TABLE 1: KINGS HIGHWAY ES CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT



Year Opened: 1958
Grades Served: PK-5
Site Utilization Impact:
 Decreases district student stations by 573

Official 2025-26 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.

TABLE 2: PROEJCTED CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT FOR IMPACTED SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	2026-27 ENROLLMENT*	PERMANENT CAPACITY	UTILIZATION	PROJECTED ENROLLMENT**	PROJECTED UTILITIZATION
Kings Highway ES	168	573	29%		
Sandy Lane ES	328	588	56%	424	72%
Skycrest ES	377	797	47%	406	51%

*2026-27 Enrollment as of the 10-day count (August 24, 2026).

Projected enrollment includes currently enrolled students from the closing school who are zoned to the receiving school, plus the receiving school's current enrollment.

The majority of Kings Highway Elementary students live in the Sandy Lane (96 students) and Skycrest (29 students) elementary school zones. Most of the remaining students are zoned for nine elementary school zones: Dunedin, Ponce de Leon, Eisenhower, High Point, Belleair, Plumb, Frontier, Garrison-Jones, and Safety Harbor elementary schools, with 10 or fewer Kings Highway Elementary students zoned for each school. All receiving schools have sufficient capacity to accommodate these students.

FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

RECENT FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

PROJECT	YEAR	INVESTMENT COST
Parking Lot	2020	\$37K
Exterior Paint	2020	\$119K
Chiller	2021	\$527K
Roof	2021	\$121K
Plumbing	2023	\$177K
PE Restrooms	2024	\$97K
Interior Paint	2024	\$232K

ANTICIPATED FACILITIES INVESTMENT

Kings Highway Elementary has \$1.4M in capital improvement investments for roofing planned in the upcoming years.

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT

Total Savings: \$3.7M/year

Personnel: \$3.4M/year

Operational: \$391K/year

Capital Investment: The recommendation is to repurpose or lease the Kings Highway Elementary property for childcare and early learning.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Kings Highway Elementary earned a B school grade in 2025-26. The recommendation for closure and rezoning is guided by districtwide enrollment trends, facility utilization, and the need to align resources to best serve students across the district.

TABLE 4: SCHOOL GRADES OF RECEIVING SCHOOLS

KHES STUDENTS REZONED TO:	2025-26 SCHOOL GRADE
Sandy Lane ES	A
Skycrest ES	A

Based on 2025-26 school grade rules, receiving schools are estimated to maintain their school grades.

The PreK program will remain at the Kings Highway Elementary campus, with plans to expand the site into an early childcare center that provides the community with affordable, high-quality education for children ages 6 months through Voluntary PreK.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS (FIRST READING ON 10/13/26; SECOND READING ON 11/10/26)

POLICY 2250: FUNDAMENTAL AND MAGNET SCHOOLS

The Kings Highway Center for Digital Learning and STEAM will no longer be a District Application Program (DAP) beginning in the 2027-28 school year.

POLICY 5120: ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT

No amendments/changes needed as a result of this recommendation.

NEXT STEPS

RECOMMENDATION COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

- **Notification:**
 - Thursday, September 10, 2026.
 - Email communication regarding the recommendation has been sent to families, staff members, and school-based community partners.
- **Staff Meetings Recommendation Overview:**
 - Staff should refer to their PCS email for date/time.
- **Family and Community Meeting #1 Recommendation Overview:** Thursday, September 17, 2026; 6 p.m.
- **Family and Community Meeting #2:** Wednesday, September 30, 2026; 6 p.m.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Meet with faculty and staff members who may have specific questions regarding the recommendation and how it may impact them individually.

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 or zoned school.
 - Individualized school choice support will be on-site at the school for families interested in additional options for the 2027-28 school year.

To learn more about any district recommendation, visit www.pcsb.org/progress.