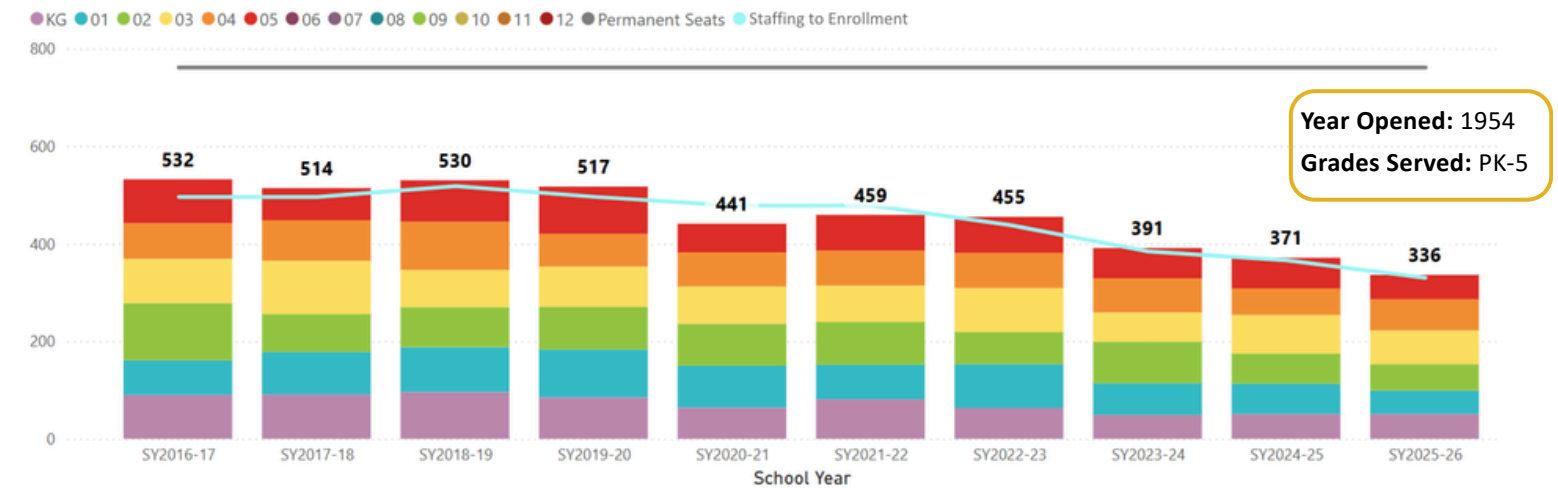


RECOMMENDATION: TRANSITION AZALEA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO A K-8 WITH AN EXPANDED ZONE AND RELOCATE THE CAMPUS

This recommendation transitions Azalea Elementary School (AES) to a K-8 school with an expanded zone for the 2027-28 school year and relocates the campus for the 2028-29 school year. Annually, all students who attend grade 5 at Azalea Elementary will have the opportunity to continue in the K-8 program through 8th grade. Current Azalea Elementary fifth graders will be able to attend grade 6 at Azalea K-8 beginning in 2027-28. The transition to a K-8 school will occur over three years, adding grade 6 in 2027-28, grade 7 in 2028-29, and grade 8 in 2029-30. The Azalea K-8 school will be a zoned school, and the district's standard Special Assignment Request admission procedures will apply to students who do not reside in the Azalea Elementary zone. The current full-time Exceptional Student Education (ESE) program at Azalea Elementary will remain at Azalea K-8. The new Azalea K-8 will relocate to the current Azalea Middle campus in 2028-29. Transportation may be provided in alignment with School Board policy.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND HISTORY

TABLE 2: AZALEA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT



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: PROJECTED ENROLLMENT AND CAPACITY

	2026-27 ENROLLMENT*	PERMANENT CAPACITY	UTILIZATION	PROJECTED ENROLLMENT**	PROJECTED CAPACITY	PROJECTED UTILIZATION
Azalea ES	337	761	44%	664 (75% of K8 Zoned Population)	1,202 (Middle School/K-8 Campus)	55% (Middle School/K-8 Campus)
74th Street ES	376	613	61%	341	613	56%

*2026-27 Enrollment as of the 10-day count (August 24, 2026). **Projected enrollment anticipates 75% market share of the zoned population.

FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

RECENT FACILITIES MAINTENANCE - ELEMENTARY CAMPUS

PROJECT	YEAR	INVESTMENT COST
HVAC	2020	\$120k
Exterior Painting	2021	\$279k
PE Restrooms	2023	\$50k
Water Lines	2025	\$266k
Roof	2025	\$2.9M

RECENT FACILITIES MAINTENANCE - MIDDLE CAMPUS

PROJECT	YEAR	INVESTMENT COST
Building Envelope	2011	\$8.1M
HVAC	2019	\$439k
Alarm/Communication Systems	2023	\$211k

ESTIMATED FACILITIES INVESTMENT - ELEMENTARY CAMPUS

Azalea Elementary is scheduled for HVAC investment during the 2026-27 school year with an estimated cost of \$210k. Additionally, the building has ~\$1.6 million in capital improvement needs (e.g., playground, interior paint, flooring, fire alarm) in the coming years.

ESTIMATED FACILITIES INVESTMENT - MIDDLE CAMPUS

The current Azalea Middle campus is scheduled for exterior painting during the 2026-27 school year with an estimated cost of \$612K. Additionally, the building has ~\$5 million in capital improvement investments (e.g., roof, elevator, flooring, fire alarm) planned in the upcoming years.

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT

Operational Savings:
\$1.2M annually beginning in 2028-29

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT

Capital Investment:
Estimate \$3 million in one-time expenses to transition first floor of the school to meet needs of elementary school-aged students.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND PROGRAM OFFERINGS

This recommendation transitions Azalea Elementary to a K-8 school, similar to the successful expansion model used at Oldsmar and Walsingham Oaks K-8 schools.

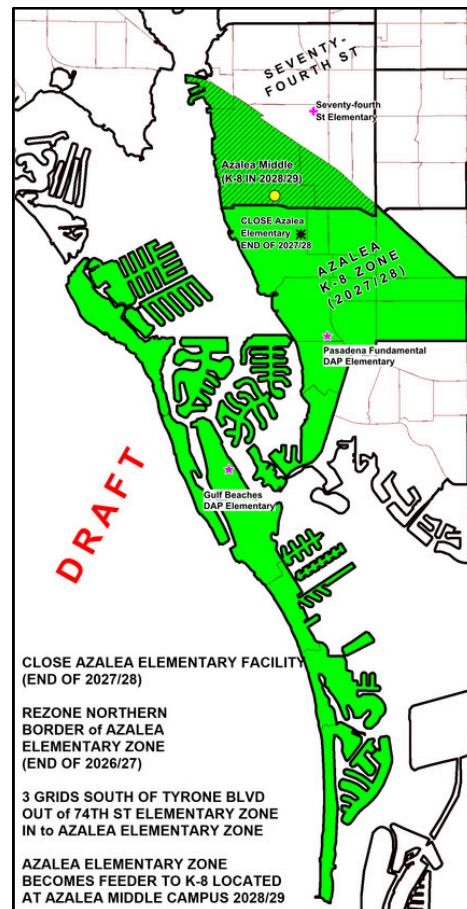
To support a smooth implementation, the K-8 model will be phased in over three years, adding grade 6 in 2027-28, grade 7 in 2028-29, and grade 8 in 2029-30.

The Azalea K-8 school will be a zoned school. The zone will include the current Azalea Elementary zone and will expand north to Tyrone Boulevard, allowing more students in the surrounding community to attend the new K-8 school. Students who attend grade 5 at Azalea K-8 will have the opportunity to continue in the K-8 program through 8th grade. Current Azalea Elementary fifth graders will be able to attend grade 6 at Azalea K-8 beginning in 2027-28.

Each year during the school choice process, students who do not live within the zone may apply to attend Azalea K-8 through the district's standard Special Assignment Request process. The district's policies will apply to students who do not reside in the Azalea Elementary zone.

The new Azalea K-8 will relocate to the current Azalea Middle campus beginning in the 2028-29 school year.

This phased expansion mirrors the approach used at Oldsmar Elementary, allowing the school community to grow gradually while maintaining continuity for students and families. The transition will provide families with a stable K-8 option, reduce student transitions, and create opportunities for stronger academic and extracurricular alignment across grade levels.



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

POLICY 2250: FUNDAMENTAL AND MAGNET SCHOOLS

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

POLICY 5120: ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT

This recommendation will rezone 3 grids and impact 80 students.

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 Recommendation Overview:** Wednesday, September 16, 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 zoned school site.
 - Individualized school choice support will be on-site at the school for families interested in additional options for the 2027-28 school year.