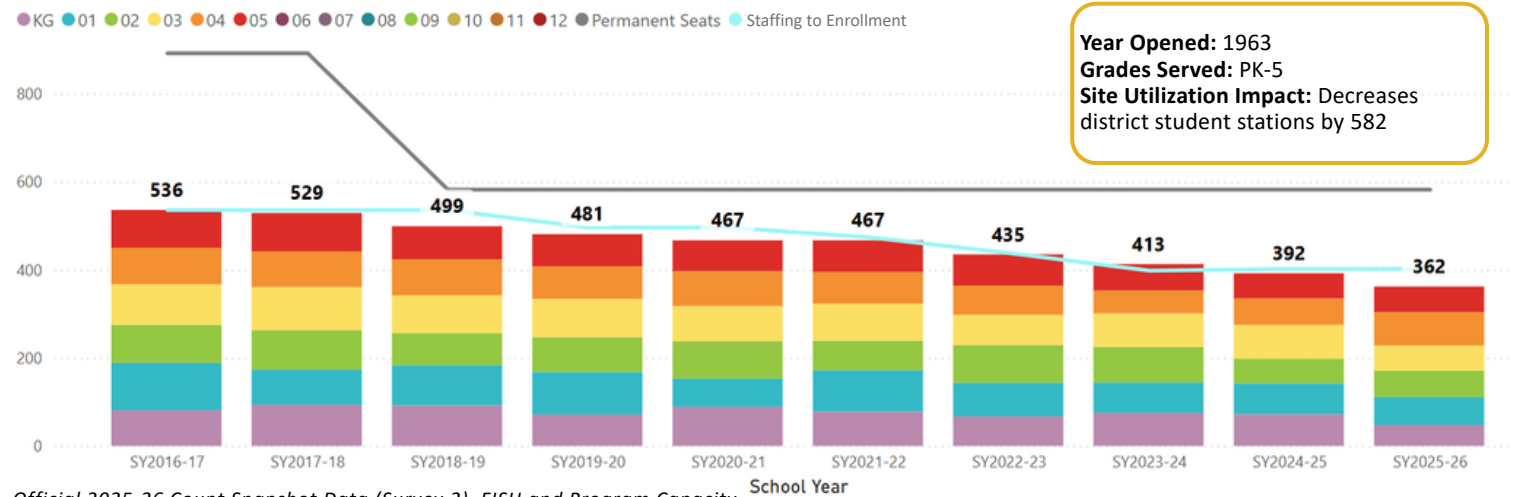


RECOMMENDATION: CLOSE BLANTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This recommendation **closes Blanton Elementary School (BES) at the end of the 2026-27 school year**. Blanton Elementary currently serves 346 students in grades K-5, including approximately 24 students in a full-time Exceptional Student Education (ESE) program. The existing Blanton Elementary school boundary will be rezoned to New Heights, Rawlings, and Westgate elementary schools. Students who live in the current Blanton Elementary zone will be assigned to these schools based on their home address. The ESE program will transition to the new fundamental K-5 school at Pinellas Park in the 2027-28 school year. Transportation may be provided in alignment with School Board policy.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND HISTORY

TABLE 1: BLANTON ES 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 CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT FOR IMPACTED SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	2026-27 ENROLLMENT*	PERMANENT CAPACITY	UTILIZATION	PROJECTED ENROLLMENT**	PROJECTED UTILIZATION
Blanton ES	346	582	60%		
New Heights ES	525	828	63%	730	88%
Rawlings ES	345	622	55%	458	74%
Westgate ES	389	616	63%	509	83%

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

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

FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

RECENT FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

PROJECT	YEAR	COST
Roof	2016	\$105k
Restroom	2016	\$165K
Plumbing	2022	\$134K
Flooring	2024	\$636K
Roof	2025	\$216K

ESTIMATED FACILITIES INVESTMENT

Blanton Elementary has ~\$2.24 million in capital improvement investment needs (e.g., HVAC, interior/exterior paint, fire alarm, etc.) expected in the upcoming years.

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT

Total Savings: \$4.4M/year
Personnel: \$3.9M/year
Operational: \$494K/year

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Blanton Elementary earned a B school grade in 2025-26 and has demonstrated continuous improvement in student outcomes. 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. The ESE program at Blanton Elementary will transition to the new K-5 fundamental school that will open on the current Pinellas Park Elementary campus.

TABLE 3: SCHOOL GRADES OF RECEIVING SCHOOLS

BLANTON ES STUDENTS REZONED TO:	2025-26 SCHOOL GRADE
New Heights ES	B
Rawlings ES	A
Westgate ES	A

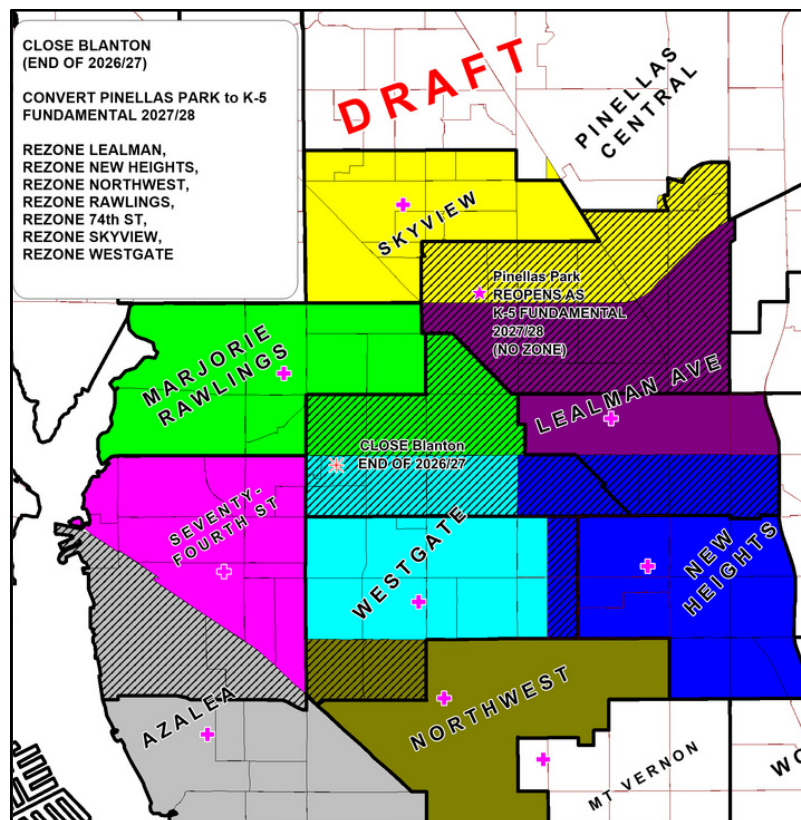
Based on 2025-26 school grade rules, all impacted schools are estimated to remain within three percentage points of the current school grades.

TABLE 4: NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY ZONE

BLANTON ES STUDENTS REZONED TO:	BLANTON ES ENROLLED* (2025-26)	BLANTON ES ZONED# (2025-26)
New Heights ES	36	56
Rawlings ES	113	180
Westgate ES	120	208

*Number of PCS students who live in the zone and currently attend Blanton.

Number of PCS students that live in the current Blanton zone.



POLICY IMPLICATIONS (FIRST READING ON 10/13/26; SECOND READING ON 11/20/26)

POLICY 2250: FUNDAMENTAL AND MAGNET SCHOOLS

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

POLICY 5120: ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT

This recommendation rezones 10 grids and 444 students who live within the zone.

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:** Thursday, October 1, 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.
 - 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.