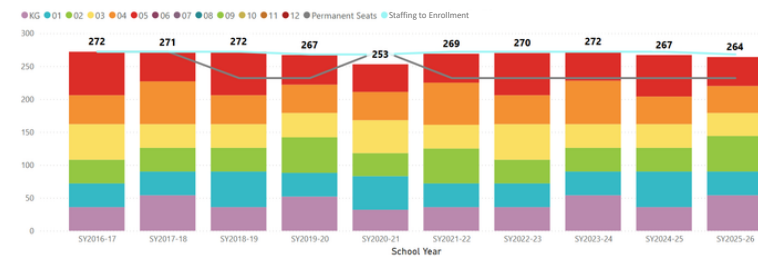


**RECOMMENDATION: OPEN A FUNDAMENTAL K-8 ON THE TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS  
CLOSE TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL  
CLOSE TARPON SPRINGS FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

This recommendation opens a fundamental K-8 school on the current Tarpon Springs Middle School campus beginning in the 2027-28 school year and closes Tarpon Springs Middle School (TSMS) and Tarpon Springs Fundamental Elementary (TSFES) at the end of the 2026-27 school year. The existing Tarpon Springs Middle zone will be rezoned to Carwise Middle School (CMS) beginning in the 2027-28 school year. Students currently enrolled in the K-5 fundamental program at Tarpon Springs Fundamental Elementary have the opportunity to continue in the fundamental program through 8th grade. The Tarpon Springs Fundamental K-8 School will be a District Application Program (DAP) with no zone, and the district's standard fundamental program admission priorities will apply. Annually, all students enrolled in grade 5 at Tarpon Springs Fundamental Elementary will be eligible to continue in grade 6 at Tarpon Springs Fundamental K-8 beginning in 2027-28. Additional seats will be available through the district's DAP process, which opens in January 2027 for the 2027-28 school year.

**SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND HISTORY**

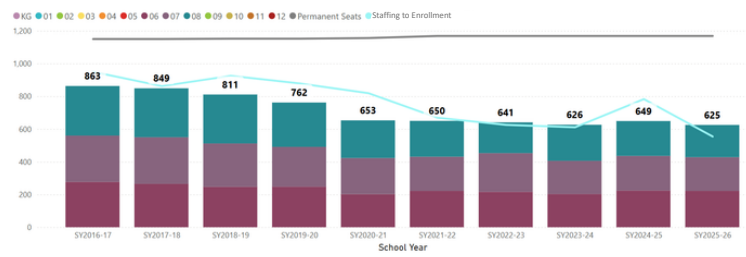
**TABLE 1: TSFES SCHOOL CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT**



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: TSMS SCHOOL CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT**



**TARPON SPRINGS FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTARY**

**Year Opened:** 1980

**Grades Served:** PK-5

**Site Utilization Impact:** Expected to decrease district student stations by 232.

**TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE**

**Year Opened:** 1981

**Grades Served:** 6-8

**Site Utilization Impact:** Expected to decrease district student stations by 117.

**TABLE 3: PROJECTED CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT**

|                          | 2026-27<br>ENROLLMENT* | PERMANENT<br>CAPACITY | UTILIZATION | PROJECTED<br>ENROLLMENT | PROJECTED<br>UTILIZATION |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Tarpon Springs Fund. ES  | 261                    | 232                   | 113%        |                         |                          |
| Tarpon Springs MS        | 610                    | 1,169                 | 52%         |                         |                          |
| Carwise MS               | 829                    | 1,251                 | 66%         | 1,135**                 | 91%                      |
| Tarpon Springs Fund. K-8 |                        | 1,052                 |             | 910                     | 87%                      |

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

Projected enrollment for closing and receiving schools accounts for all currently enrolled students.

\*\*Carwise MS projected enrollment is the new total zoned population minus the ELMS capacity and the 6-8 capacity of the new fundamental K-8.

Creating a fundamental program on a larger campus will provide space to expand enrollment up to 480 in K-5, and 572 in middle school grade levels, making better use of the facility. As middle school families choose the expanded Tarpon Springs Fundamental K-8 School, expanded East Lake Middle, and the newly expanded Oldsmar K-8 School, enrollment is expected to become more balanced across the area, better utilizing available capacity.

**FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY**

**RECENT FACILITIES MAINTENANCE**

Since 2020, Tarpon Springs Fundamental Elementary has received more than \$967K in facility improvements and maintenance, including an upgraded playground and turf, painting, and chiller replacement.

During the same period, Tarpon Springs Middle has received nearly \$654K in maintenance and capital improvements, including chiller and elevator replacements and major plumbing repairs.

**ANTICIPATED FACILITIES INVESTMENTS**

The Tarpon Springs Middle campus will require \$3.1 million in one-time capital improvement investment to renovate bathrooms, making them suitable for primary grades, install playgrounds, and make upgrades to create elementary spaces on the first floor.

**ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT**

**Total Savings: \$4.6M/year**

**Personnel: \$4M/year**

**Operational: \$590K/year**

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND PROGRAM OFFERINGS

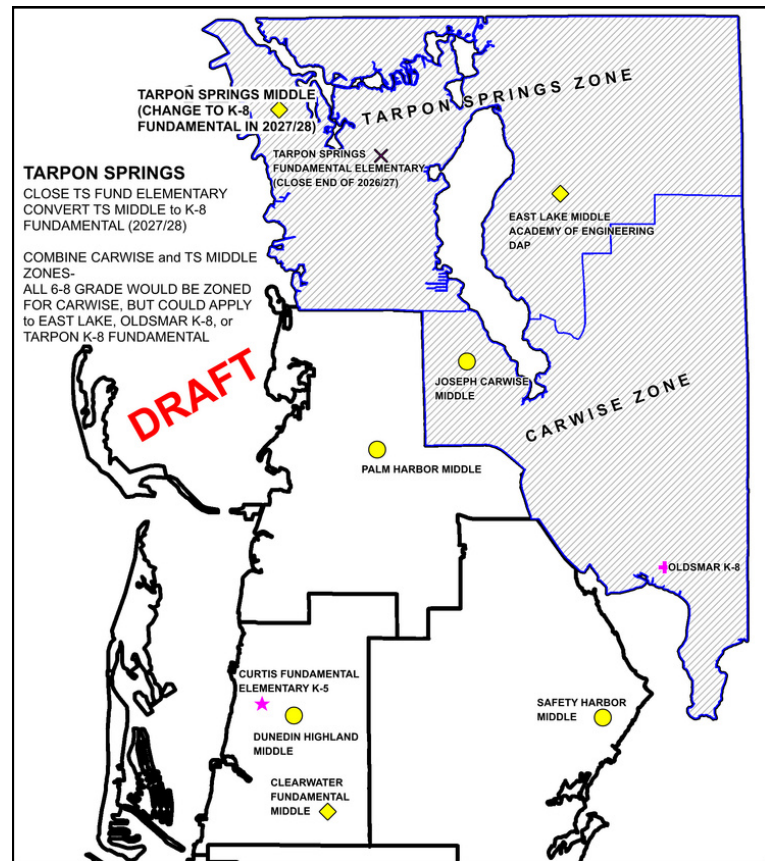
Tarpon Springs Middle School has earned a school grade of A or B since the 2020-21 school year. This recommendation is driven by community feedback, districtwide enrollment trends, facility utilization, and the need to align resources to best serve students across the district.

The current Tarpon Springs Middle zone will be rezoned to Carwise Middle. Approximately 1,117 PCS students live in the affected area that will be rezoned to Carwise Middle. Carwise Middle is an A-rated school serving students in grades 6-8.

Students who currently attend Tarpon Springs Fundamental Elementary can remain in the new fundamental program and change locations to the current Tarpon Springs Middle campus beginning in the 2027-28 school year. Additional families can apply to the Tarpon Springs Fundamental K-8 program beginning in January 2027 for the 2027-28 school year. Transportation will be provided to Carwise Middle in alignment with School Board policy.

| SCHOOL                        | 2025-26 GRADE |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Tarpon Springs Fundamental ES | A             |
| Tarpon Springs MS             | B             |
| Carwise MS                    | A             |

Based on 2025-26 school grade rules, Carwise Middle School is estimated to be maintained.



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

### POLICY 2250: FUNDAMENTAL AND MAGNET SCHOOLS

The expanded K-8 fundamental school will become a District Application Program (DAP) choice for the 2027-28 school year. The district's standard fundamental program admission priorities will apply, and transportation will not be provided.

### POLICY 5120: ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT

This recommendation will rezone 59 grids and 1,117 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 Meetings Recommendation Overview:**
  - TSFES: Tuesday, September 15, 2026; 6 p.m.
  - TSMS: Wednesday, September 16, 2026; 6 p.m.
- Family and Community Meeting #2:**
  - TSFES: Thursday, October 1, 2026; 6 p.m.
  - TSMS: Wednesday, September 29, 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.

### OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES

- If approved by the School Board, initiate the physical campus modifications needed to accommodate elementary-aged students, including primary-grade restroom alterations.

To learn more about any district recommendation, visit [www.pcsb.org/progress](http://www.pcsb.org/progress).