



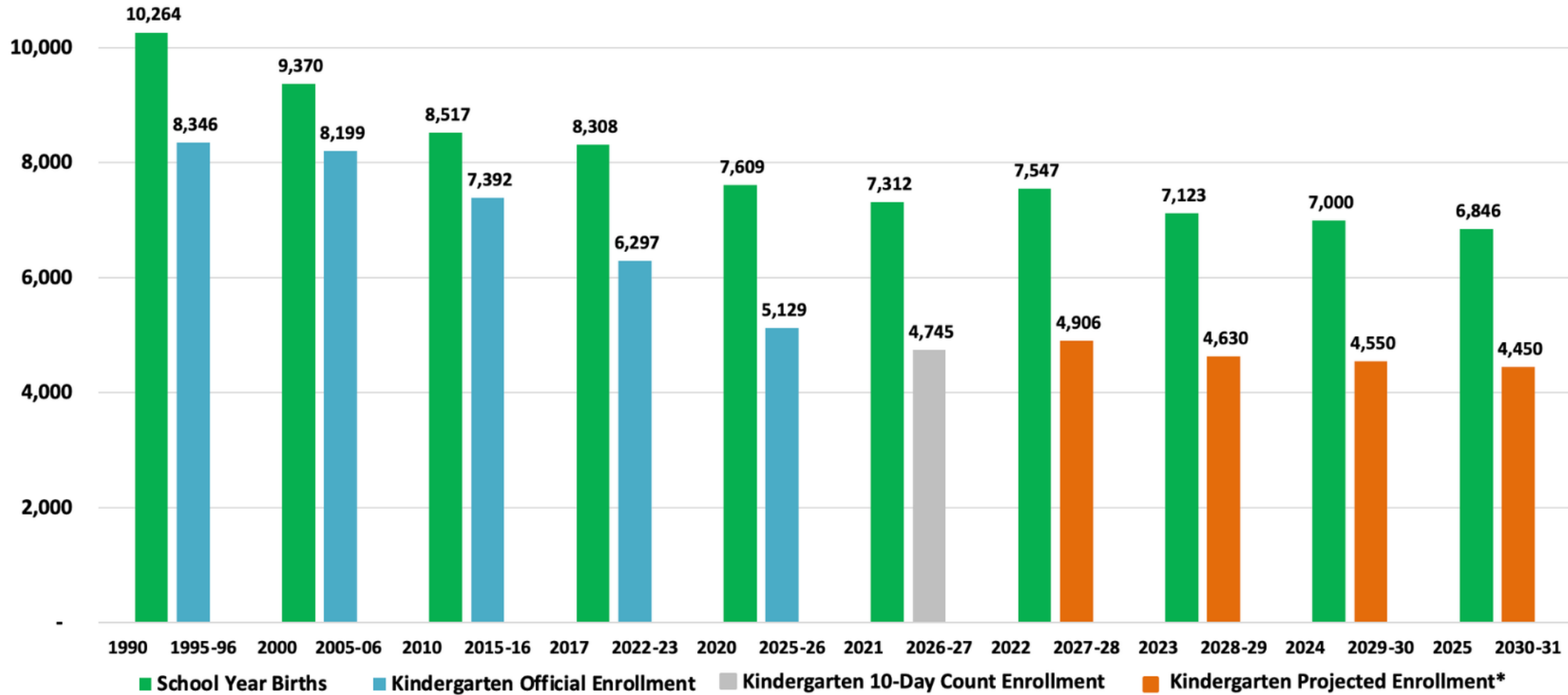
PLANNING FOR PROGRESS

A PORTFOLIO REVIEW OF PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

**TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE MEETING
FALL 2026 RECOMMENDATIONS**

PRESENTED AT SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

PINELLAS COUNTY BIRTH RATES

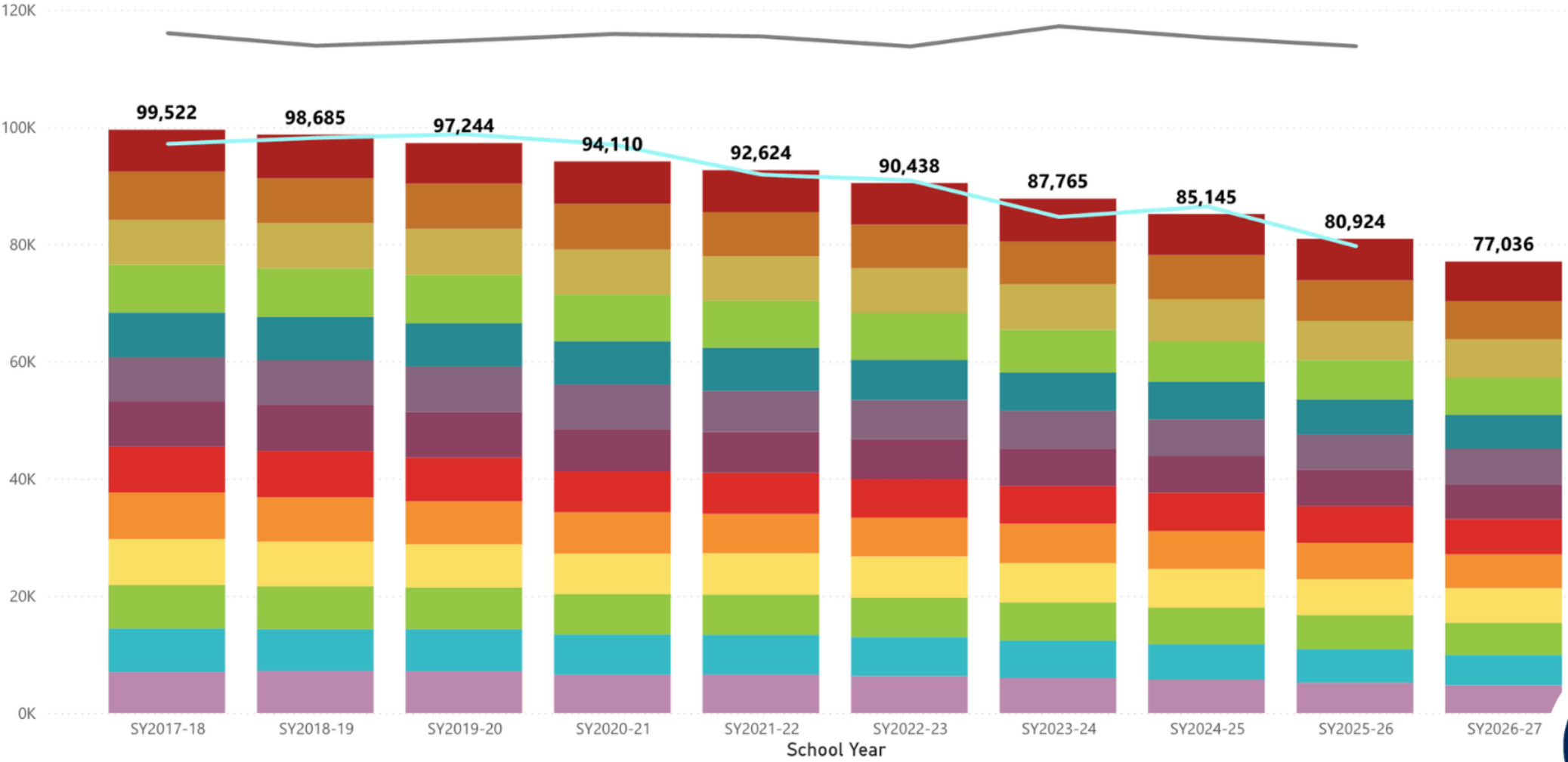


*Projected enrollment based on 65% of births in Pinellas County in the corresponding calendar year.

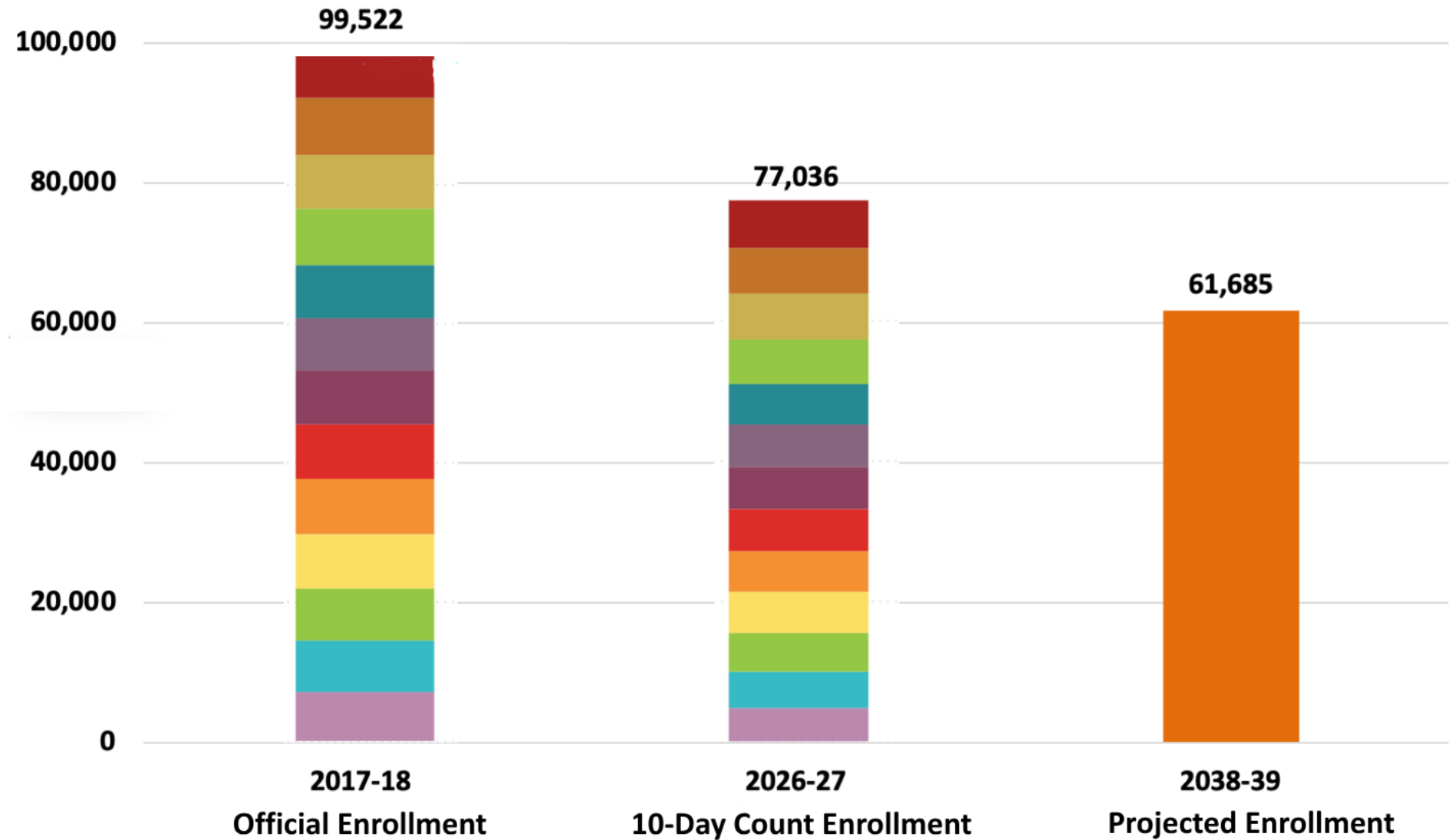


DISTRICT ENROLLMENT & BUILDING CAPACITY

● KG ● 01 ● 02 ● 03 ● 04 ● 05 ● 06 ● 07 ● 08 ● 09 ● 10 ● 11 ● 12 ● Permanent Seats ● Staffing to Enrollment



PCS ENROLLMENT PROJECTION



PINELLAS COUNTY POPULATION TRENDS

THE SCHOOL-AGE POPULATION IN PINELLAS COUNTY IS EXPECTED TO DECREASE OR PLATEAU THROUGH 2050.

THE POPULATION OF RESIDENTS AGED 80+ WILL DOUBLE BY 2050.



BEBR

**Bureau of Economic and
Business Research**

PORTFOLIO REVIEW

A STRATEGIC AND COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH FOR THRIVING SCHOOLS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Student-Centered Opportunities
- Enrollment and Demand Trends
- Grade Configuration and Community Demand
- Program Availability and Geographic Distribution
- Site Capacity, Building Utilization, and Facility Investments
- Community Development and Demographic Analysis
- Public and Private Partnership Opportunities
- School Attendance Boundaries and Transportation Considerations
- Stakeholder Input and Community Priorities



FALL 2026 INDIVIDUAL SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

EAST LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

EXPAND THE NUMBER OF SEATS AT EAST LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

TARPON SPRINGS FUNDAMENTAL AND TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE

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

KINGS HIGHWAY ELEMENTARY

CLOSE KINGS HIGHWAY ELEMENTARY

PINELLAS PARK ELEMENTARY

OPEN A FUNDAMENTAL K-5 ON THE PINELLAS PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAMPUS
CLOSE PINELLAS PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BLANTON ELEMENTARY

CLOSE BLANTON ELEMENTARY

BOCA CIEGA HIGH

CREATE A TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL AT BOCA CIEGA HIGH

AZALEA MIDDLE

RELOCATE AND RENAME AZALEA MIDDLE

AZALEA ELEMENTARY

RELOCATE AND TRANSITION AZALEA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO A
K-8 WITH AN EXPANDED ZONE

BEAR CREEK ELEMENTARY

CLOSE BEAR CREEK ELEMENTARY

JOHN M. SEXTON ELEMENTARY

CLOSE JOHN M. SEXTON ELEMENTARY

LEALMAN INNOVATION ACADEMY

CLOSE LEALMAN INNOVATION ACADEMY

ADDITIONAL ZONE ADJUSTMENTS TO NORTH, MID AND SOUTH COUNTY SCHOOLS





FUNDAMENTAL K-8

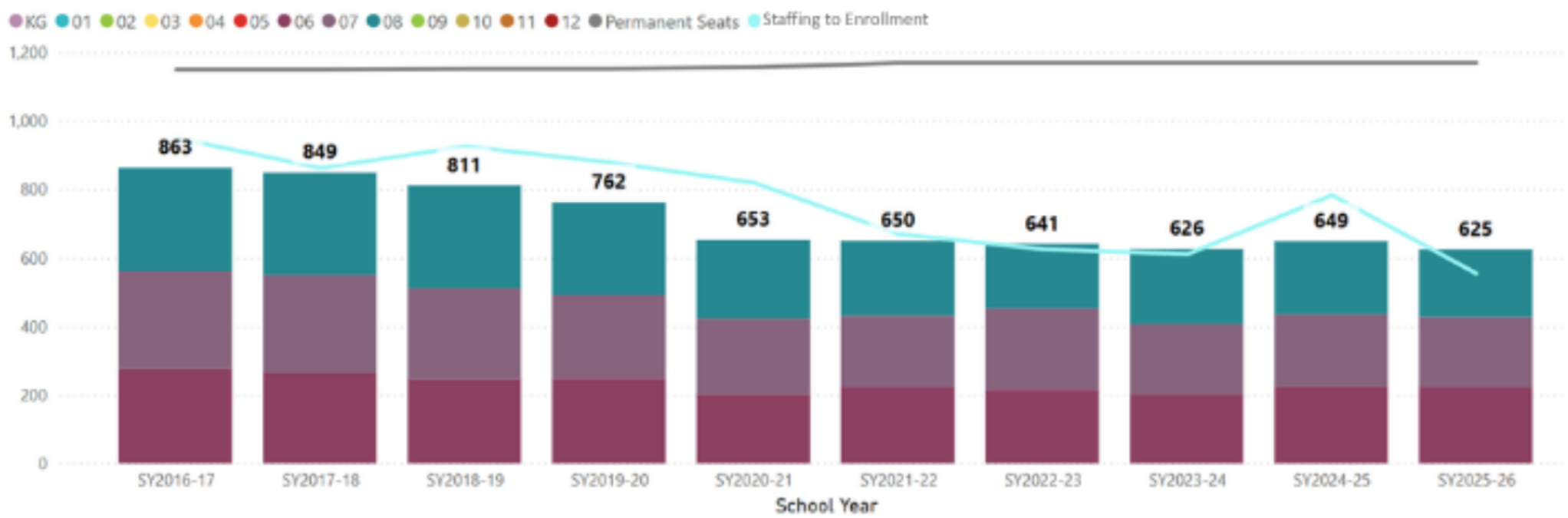
FALL 2026 RECOMMENDATIONS

PRESENTED AT SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

TARPON SPRINGS FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTARY AND TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE

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

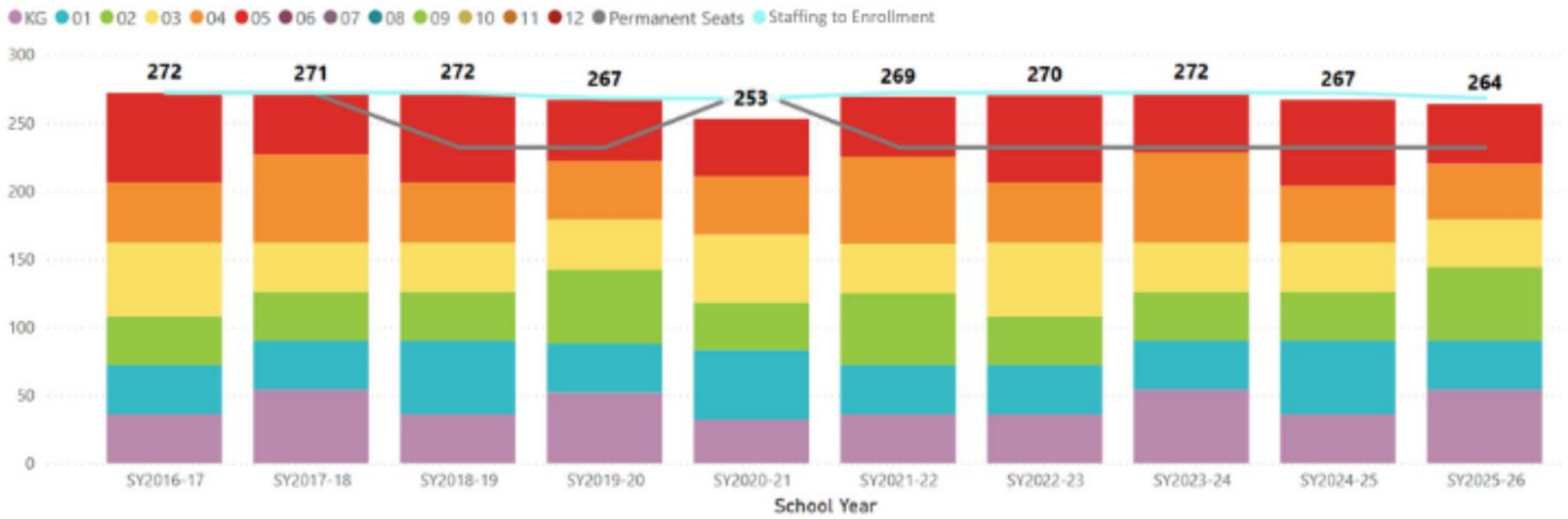
TABLE 2: TSMS SCHOOL CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT



TARPON SPRINGS FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTARY AND TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE

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

TABLE 1: TSFES SCHOOL CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT



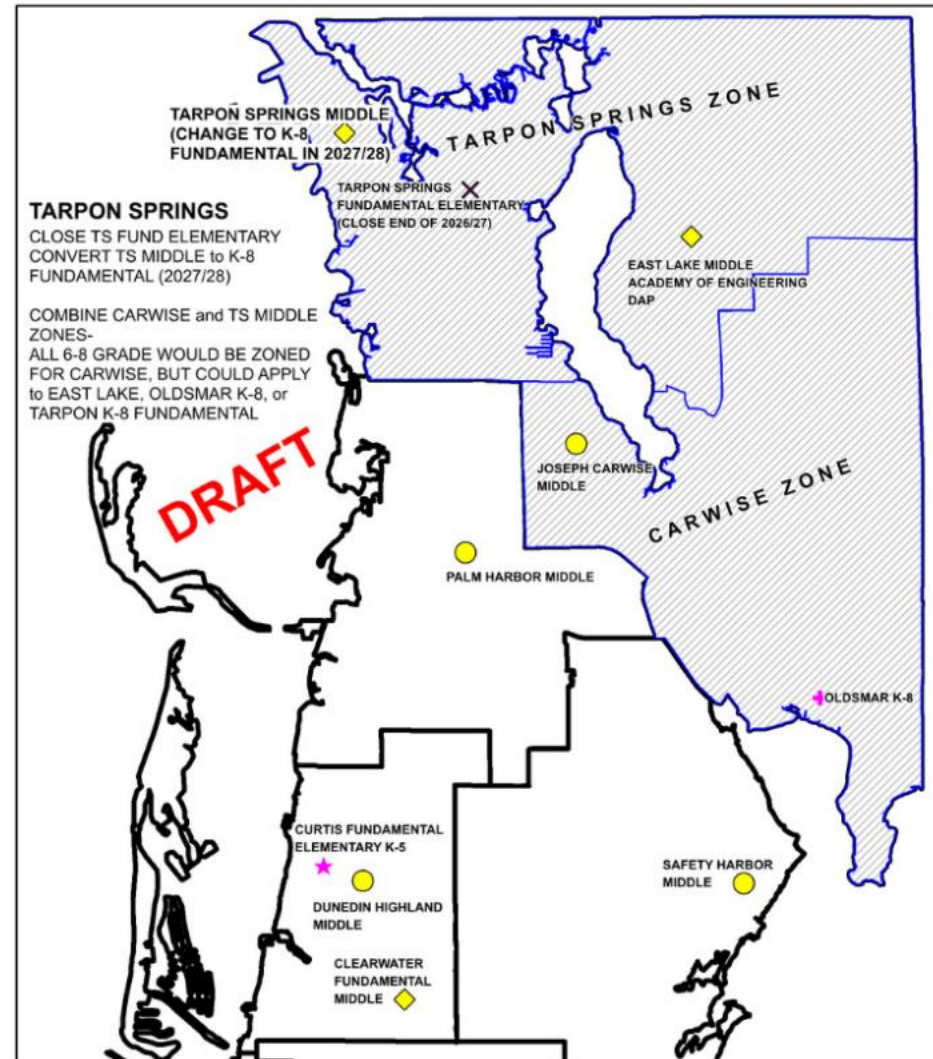
TARPON SPRINGS FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTARY AND TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE

OPEN A FUNDAMENTAL K-8 ON THE TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS

- 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 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. Transportation will not be provided to the Fundamental K-8 School.
- Students who currently attend TSFES can remain in the new fundamental program and change locations to the current Tarpon Springs Middle campus beginning in the 2027-28 school year.
- The existing TSMS zone will be rezoned to Carwise Middle School (CMS) beginning in the 2027-28 school year. Transportation will be provided to Carwise Middle in alignment with School Board policy.
- Students who currently attend TSMS will have the choice to opt-in to attend the new fundamental school, agreeing to all fundamental program requirements.
- Additional families can apply to the Tarpon Springs Fundamental K-8 program beginning in January 2027 for the 2027-28 school year.



TARPON SPRINGS FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTARY AND TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE



TARPON SPRINGS FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTARY AND TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE

OPEN A FUNDAMENTAL K-8 ON THE TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS

TABLE 3: PROJECTED CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT

	2026-27 ENROLLMENT*	PERMANENT CAPACITY	UTILIZATION	PROJECTED ENROLLMENT	PROJECTED 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.



TIMELINE: FALL 2026 RECOMMENDATIONS

SEPTEMBER 2026

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: SEPT 10, 2026

Topic: Fall Recommendations

SCHOOL-BASED MEETINGS #1: SEPT 14-21, 2026

Topic: Individual Site Recommendations & Policy Implications

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: SEPT 22, 2026 @ 5 PM

Opportunity for Public Comment

NOVEMBER 2026

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: NOV 10, 2026 @ 10 AM

Topic: Policy Second Reading

OCTOBER 2026

SCHOOL-BASED MEETINGS #2: SEPT 23 - OCT 6, 2026

Topic: Second meeting for schools recommended for closure

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: OCT 6, 2026

Topic: Individual Site Recommendations & Policy Implications

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: OCT 13, 2026 @ 5 PM

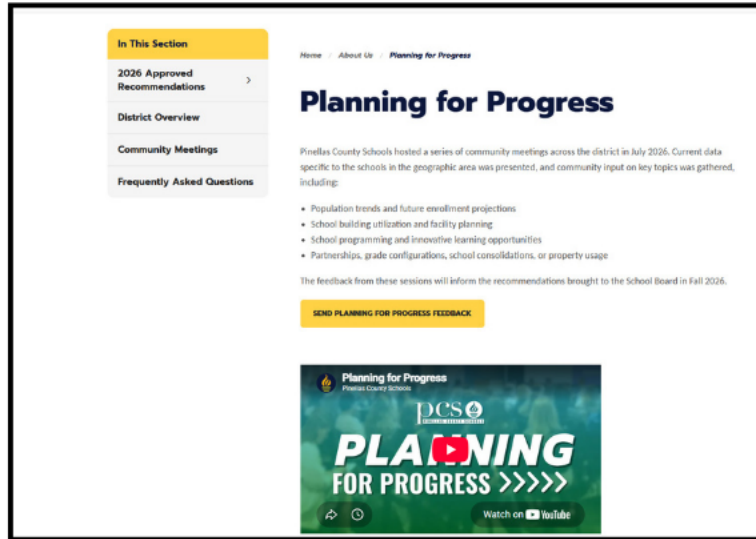
Opportunity for Public Comment and Board Vote on Recommendations and Policy First Reading

SPRING-SUMMER 2027

IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHOOL BOARD-APPROVED RECOMMENDATIONS



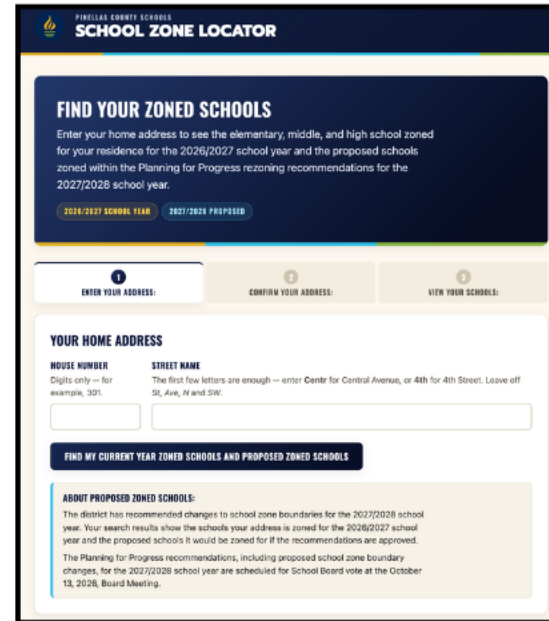
LEARN MORE AT WWW.PCSB.ORG/PROGRESS



WEBSITE

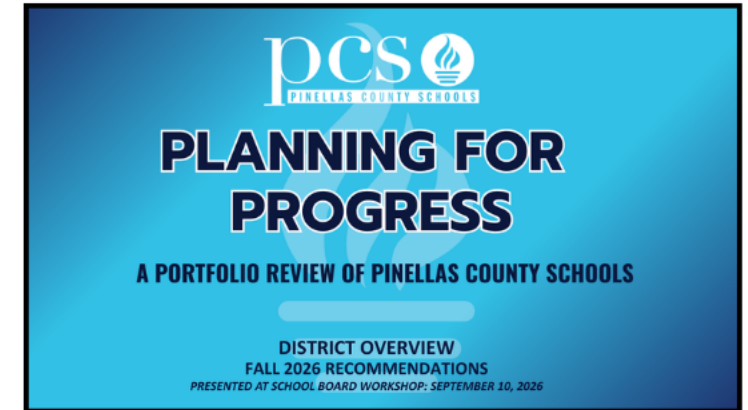
BY RECOMMENDATION: ONE-PAGERS, FAQs,
COMMUNITY MEETING DATES & LINKS TO
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

FEEDBACK BUTTON



SCHOOL LOCATOR

CURRENT & PROPOSED SCHOOL ZONES



VIDEOS

BY RECOMMENDATION &
GEOGRAPHIC AREA

SEND PLANNING FOR PROGRESS FEEDBACK

ALL SUBMISSIONS WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL BOARD MEMBERS



PLANNING FOR PROGRESS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WILL STAFF MEMBERS LOSE THEIR JOBS?

No staff member will lose their job as a result of the recommendations.

WHAT WILL THE BELL SCHEDULE BE WITH A MIDDLE SCHOOL ON THE SAME CAMPUS?

Based on Board approval of the Planning for Progress recommendations, bell schedules for all schools will be brought to the School Board and finalized by Spring 2027.

WILL THE YOUNGEST LEARNERS BE IN THE SAME SPACE AS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS?

No. The design of K-8 sites across the district take into account separate buildings for older students. This allows for building a campus-wide culture while ensuring safe, developmentally appropriate educational spaces. Construction on the site of TSMS for elementary spaces will begin in Spring 2027 in order to open for the 2027-28 school year.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS A FUNDAMENTAL SCHOOL?

Fundamental Schools emphasize a structured, traditional approach to education. These programs feature clear expectations, routines, and accountability measures for both students and parents.

WILL THE CAMBRIDGE AND LEADERSHIP CONVERATORY FOR THE ARTS PROGRAMS REMAIN AT THE FUNDAMENTAL K-8?

Yes. Currently, these academic programming opportunities will remain as part of the Fundamental K-8.

WHAT EXTRA CURRICULAR AND ELECTIVE OPPORTUNITIES WILL THE K-8 HAVE NEXT YEAR?

Extracurricular activities (e.g., clubs, athletics) and electives will be determined based on student interests and requests. The location of the K-8 on the current middle school site ensures that the facilities can fully support traditional middle-grades opportunities, such as athletics, and provide ample space for all extracurricular activities.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DO I MAKE SURE MY STUDENT AT TSFES OR TSMS GOES TO THE K-8?

The student assignment office will communicate the process with school leaders and directly with all families to ensure all families have the opportunity to opt-in to the new K-8 school.

DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO GO TO THE FUNDAMENTAL K-8 FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL?

No. Families will continue to have middle school options through the choice/district application program process. If your family is currently in the Tarpon Springs Middle School zone, the new zone school will be Carwise Middle School.

MY CHILD CURRENTLY GOES TO ANOTHER MIDDLE SCHOOL, WILL THEY HAVE THE OPTION OF GOING TO THE FUNDAMENTAL K-8?

Yes. Additional students and families can apply to the Fundamental K-8 through the District Application Program choice process for the 2027-28 school year.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

MY CHILD CURRENTLY ATTENDS A DISTRICT APPLICATION PROGRAM (DAP) AT TARPON MIDDLE SCHOOL AND RECEIVES DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION. IF MY CHILD CHOOSES TO ATTEND THE NEW K-8 FUNDAMENTAL SCHOOL, WILL TRANSPORTATION STILL BE PROVIDED?

Yes. Current Tarpon Middle School students who receive transportation through their District Application Program (DAP) and choose to attend the new K-8 Fundamental School will continue to receive transportation.

Transportation will only be provided for students who are currently enrolled at Tarpon Middle School and already receive DAP transportation. Students who are newly enrolling at the K-8 Fundamental School will not be eligible for transportation.