



# **PLANNING FOR PROGRESS**

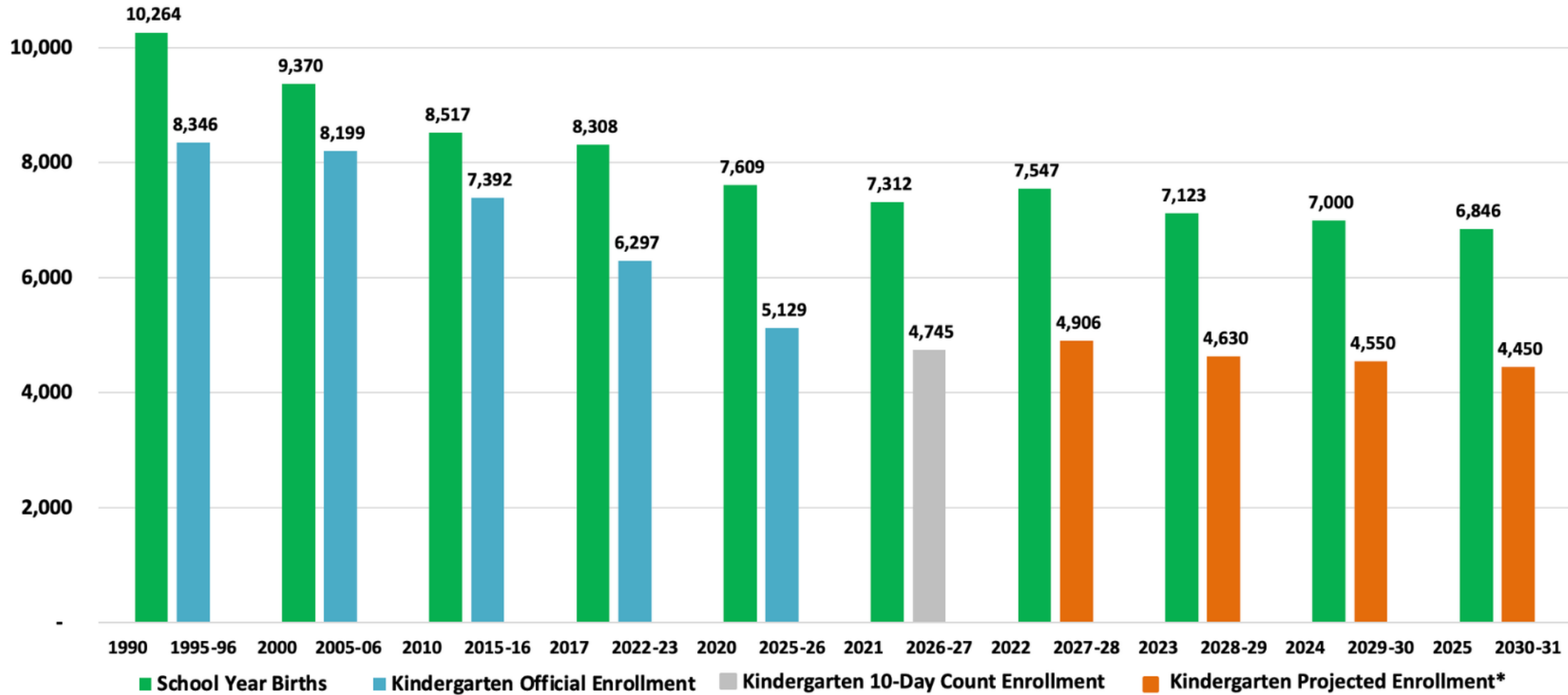
**A PORTFOLIO REVIEW OF PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS**

**BLANTON ELEMENTARY MEETING**

**FALL 2026 RECOMMENDATIONS**

*PRESENTED AT SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: SEPTEMBER 10, 2026*

# PINELLAS COUNTY BIRTH RATES



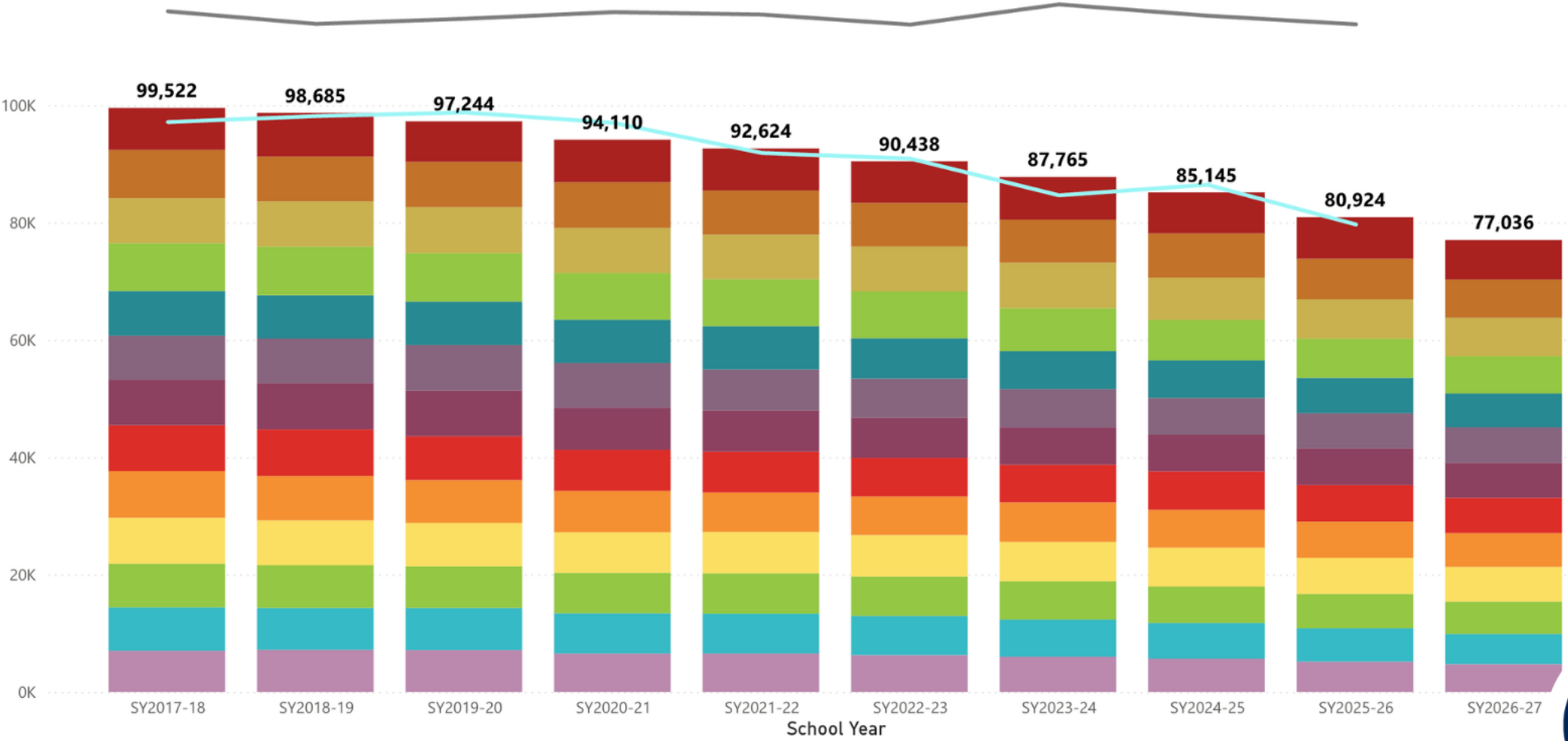
\*Projected enrollment based on 65% of births in Pinellas County in the corresponding calendar year.



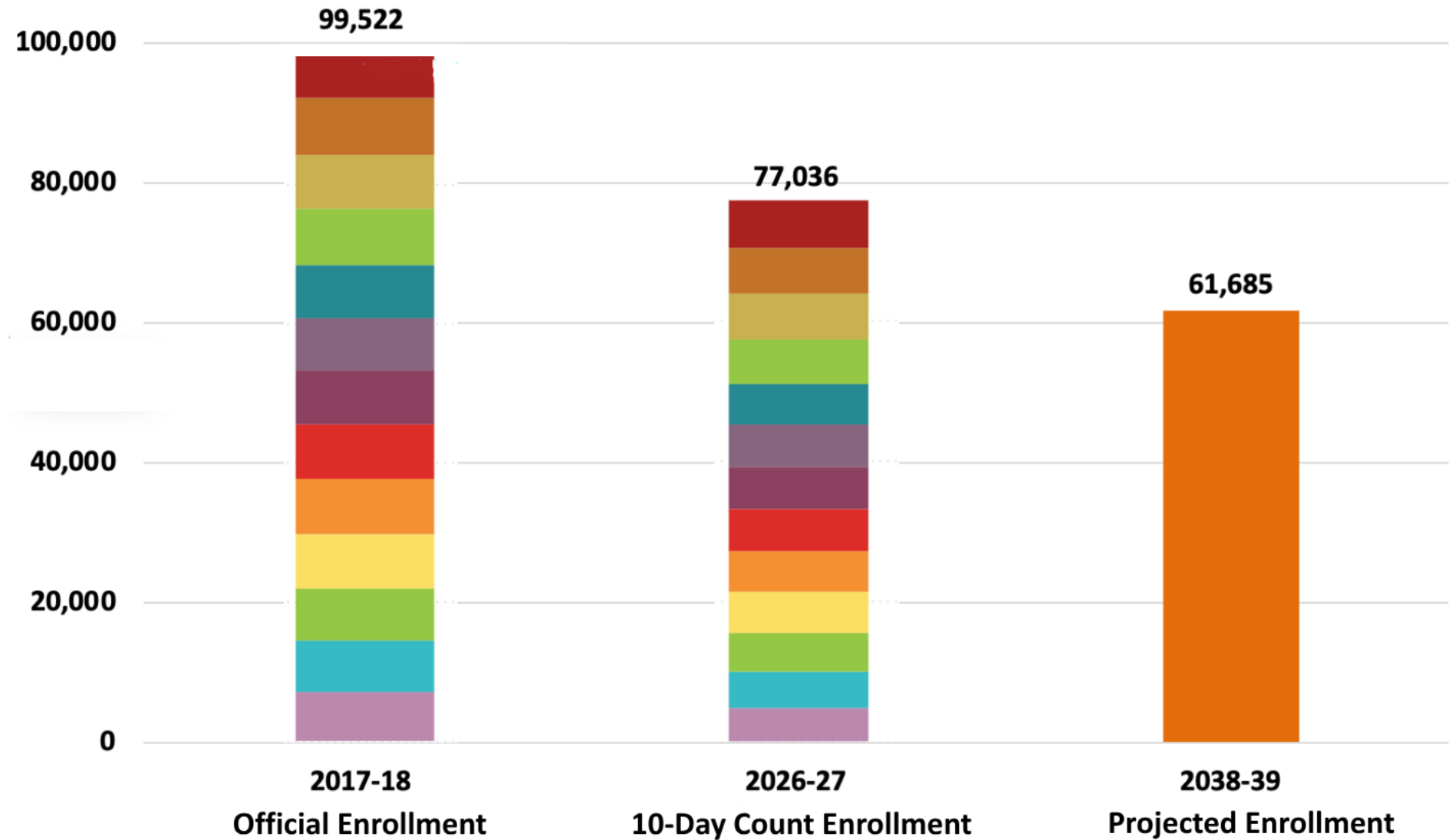
# DISTRICT ENROLLMENT & BUILDING CAPACITY

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

120K



# 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





# **BLANTON ELEMENTARY**

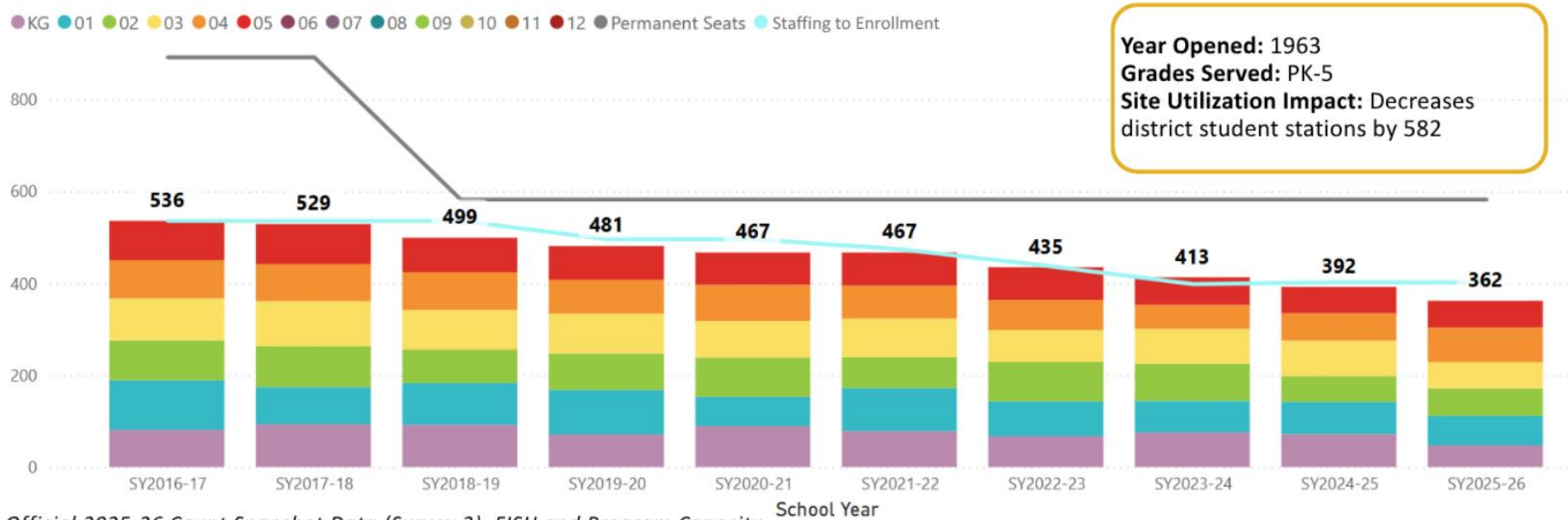
**FALL 2026 RECOMMENDATIONS**

*PRESENTED AT SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: SEPTEMBER 10, 2026*

# BLANTON ELEMENTARY

## RECOMMENDATION: CLOSE BLANTON ELEMENTARY

TABLE 1: BLANTON ES CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT



**Year Opened:** 1963  
**Grades Served:** PK-5  
**Site Utilization Impact:** Decreases district student stations by 582

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.



# BLANTON ELEMENTARY

- This recommendation closes Blanton Elementary School (BES) at the end of the 2026-27 school year.
- 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.
- 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.



# BLANTON ELEMENTARY

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

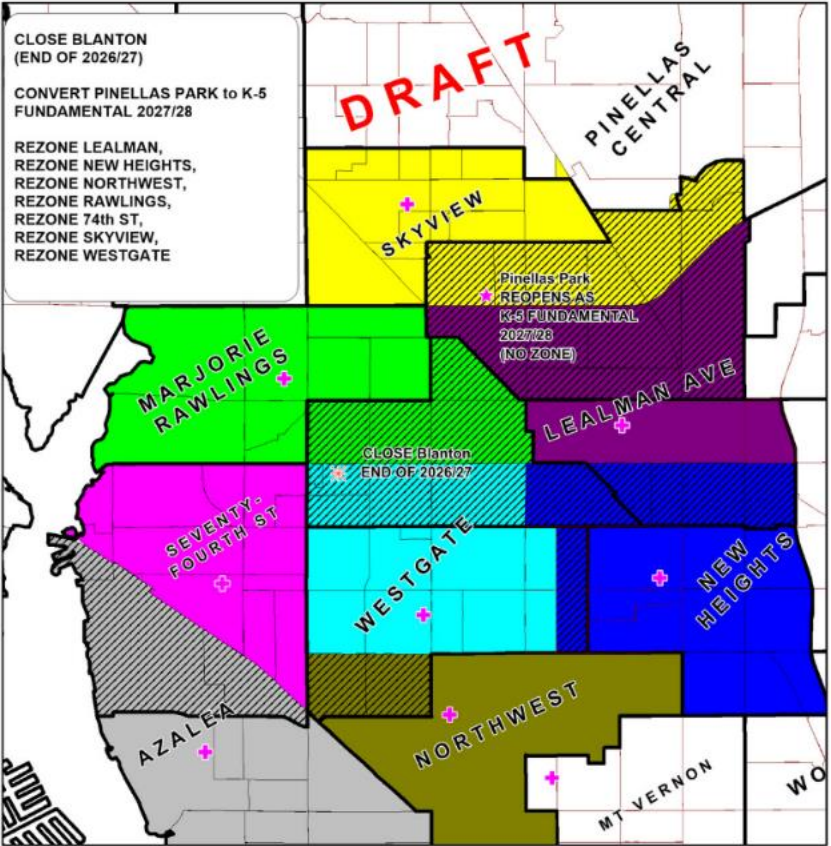


TABLE 3: SCHOOL GRADES OF RECEIVING SCHOOLS

| 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.



# 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



# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

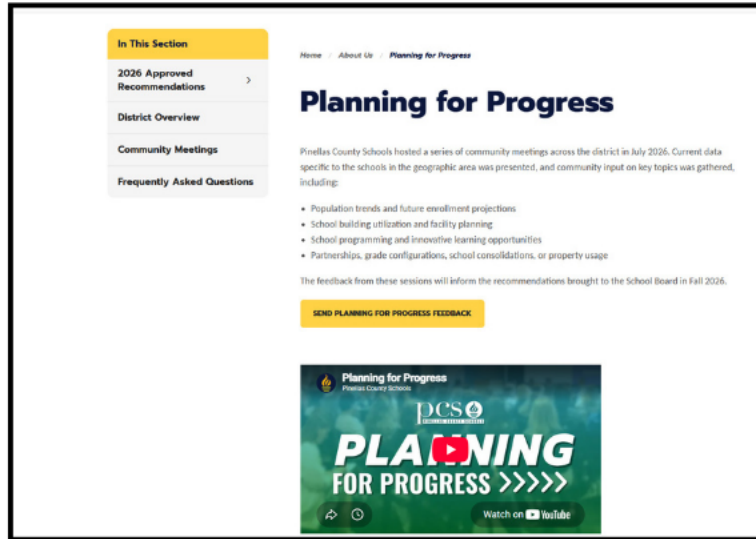
## **WILL STAFF MEMBERS LOSE THEIR JOBS?**

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

## **IF THE BOARD APPROVES THE RECOMMENDATION, DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO GO TO THE NEW ZONE SCHOOL, OR CAN MY FAMILY ENTER THE PCS SCHOOL CHOICE/DAP PROCESS FOR THE 2027-28 SCHOOL YEAR?**

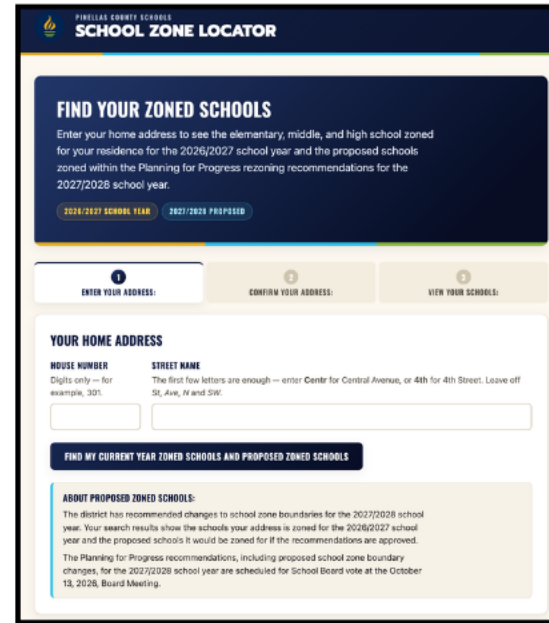
Families who do not wish to attend the new zone school can enter the upcoming PCS District Application Program (DAP) choice process, which includes all magnet programs and special attendance requests (SAR).

# LEARN MORE AT [WWW.PCSB.ORG/PROGRESS](http://WWW.PCSB.ORG/PROGRESS)



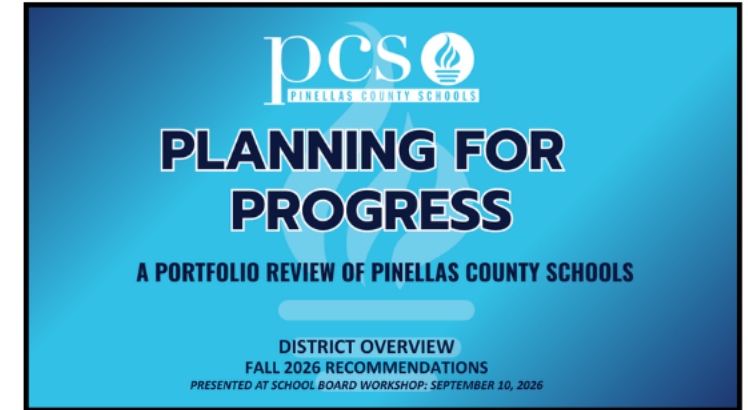
## WEBSITE

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



## SCHOOL LOCATOR

CURRENT & PROPOSED SCHOOL ZONES



## VIDEOS

BY RECOMMENDATION &  
GEOGRAPHIC AREA

## FEEDBACK BUTTON

**SEND PLANNING FOR PROGRESS FEEDBACK**

ALL SUBMISSIONS WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL BOARD MEMBERS



# PLANNING FOR PROGRESS