



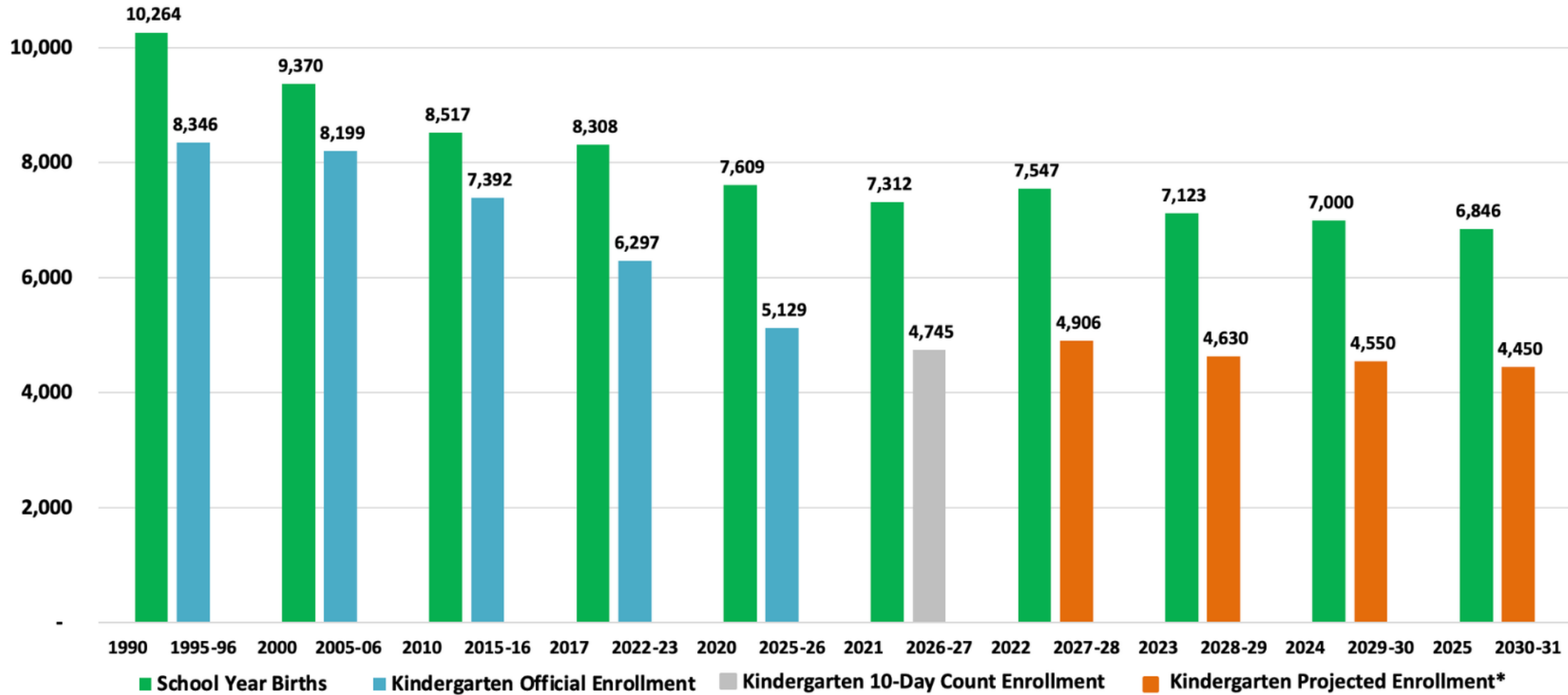
PLANNING FOR PROGRESS

A PORTFOLIO REVIEW OF PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

**BEAR CREEK ELEMENTARY MEETING
FALL 2026 RECOMMENDATIONS**

PRESENTED AT SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

PINELLAS COUNTY BIRTH RATES

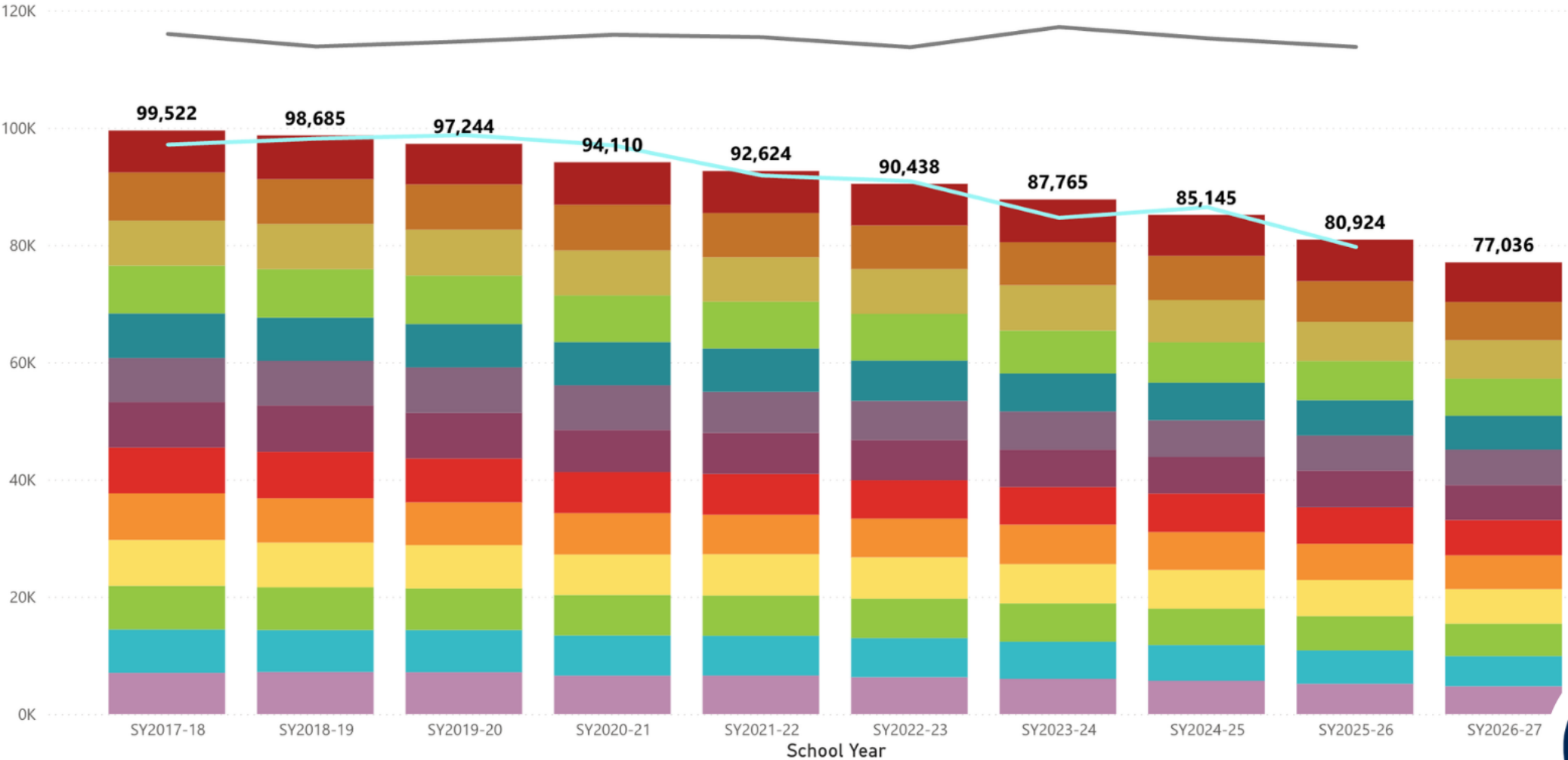


*Projected enrollment based on 65% of births in Pinellas County in the corresponding calendar year.

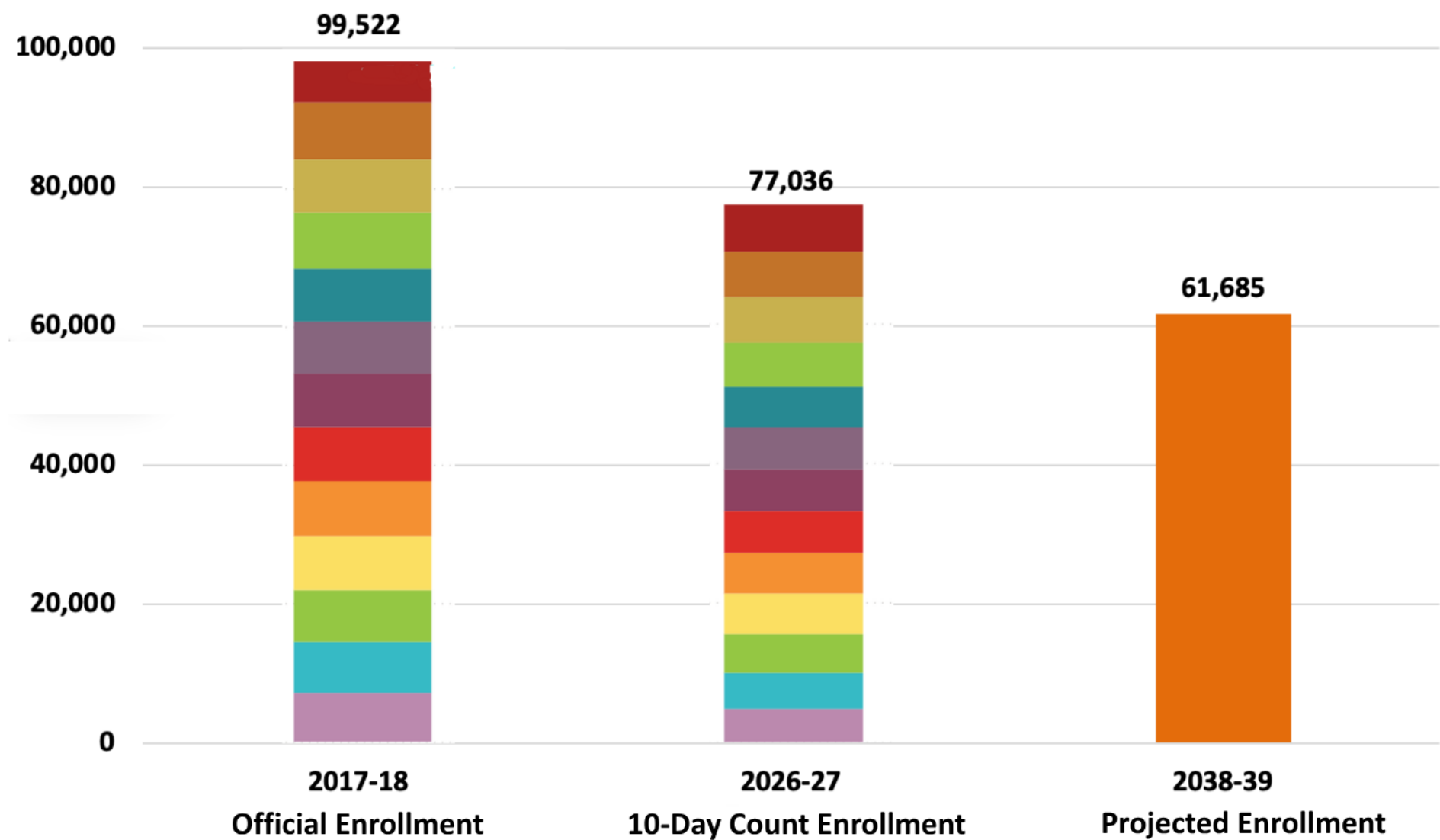


DISTRICT ENROLLMENT & BUILDING CAPACITY

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



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





BEAR CREEK ELEMENTARY

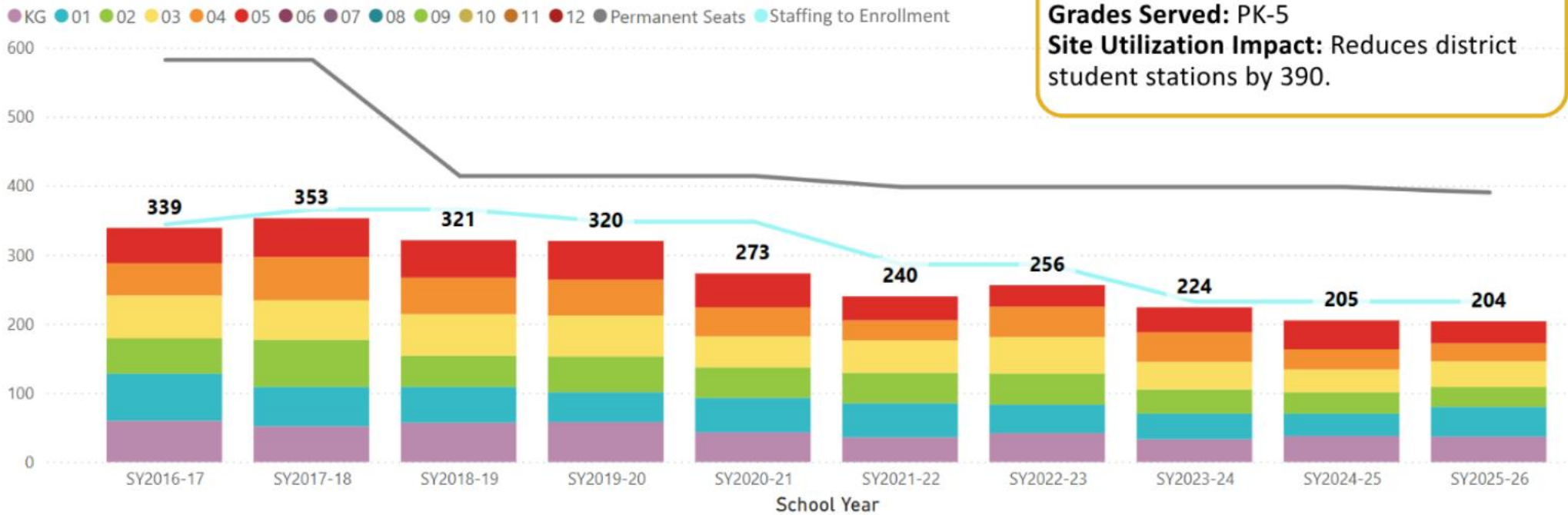
FALL 2026 RECOMMENDATIONS

PRESENTED AT SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

BEAR CREEK ELEMENTARY

RECOMMENDATION: CLOSE BEAR CREEK ELEMENTARY

TABLE 1: BEAR CREEK ES CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT



Year Opened: 1954
Grades Served: PK-5
Site Utilization Impact: Reduces district student stations by 390.

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.



BEAR CREEK ELEMENTARY

- This recommendation closes Bear Creek Elementary School (BCES) at the end of the 2026-27 school year.
- The existing Bear Creek Elementary zone will be rezoned to Gulfport Montessori and Fairmount Park elementary schools. Students who live in the current Bear Creek Elementary zone will be assigned to these schools based on their home address.
- The ESE program will transition to Gulfport Montessori Elementary.
- Transportation may be provided in alignment with School Board policy.
- Bear Creek Elementary has earned an A or B school grade since 2023 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.



BEAR CREEK ELEMENTARY

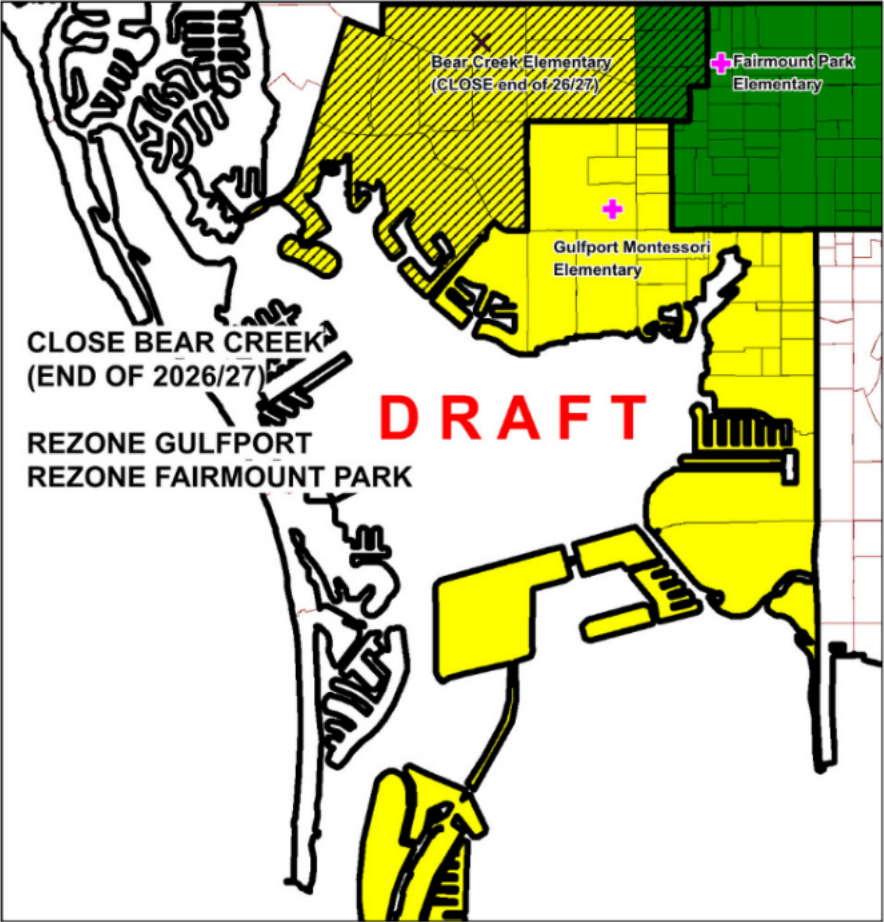


TABLE 2: CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT FOR IMPACTED SCHOOLS

	2026-27 ENROLLMENT*	PERMANENT CAPACITY	UTILIZATION	PROJECTED ENROLLMENT**	PROJECTED UTILIZATION
Bear Creek ES	189	390	48%		
Fairmount Park ES	334	718	47%	402	56%
Gulfport Montessori ES	283	718	39%	358	50%

*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

BCES STUDENTS REZONED TO:	2025-26 SCHOOL GRADE
Fairmount Park ES	B
Gulfport Montessori ES	A

Based on 2025-26 school grade rules, all impacted schools are estimated to maintain their school grades.

TABLE 4: NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN EACH ATTENDANCE ZONE

BCES STUDENTS REZONED TO:	BEAR CREEK ES ENROLLED (2025-26)*	BEAR CREEK ES ZONED (2025-26)#
Fairmount Park ES	68	128
Gulfport Montessori ES	75	242

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

Number of PCS students who live in the Bear Creek 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

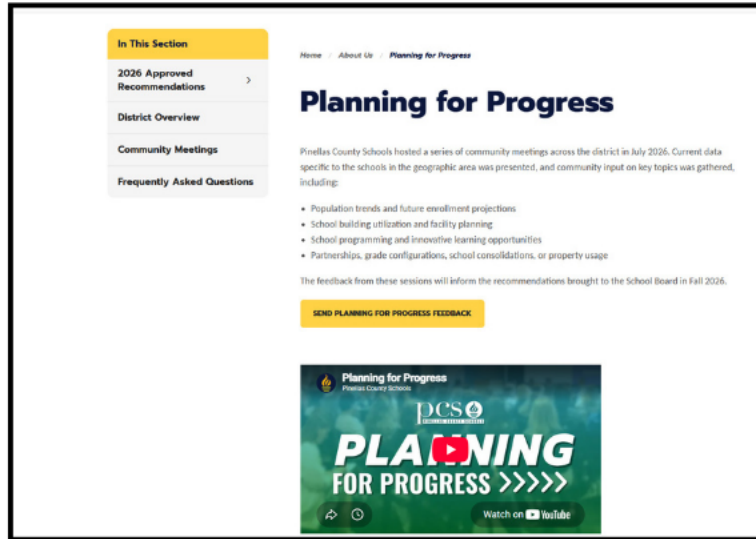
WILL STAFF MEMBERS LOSE THEIR JOBS?

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).

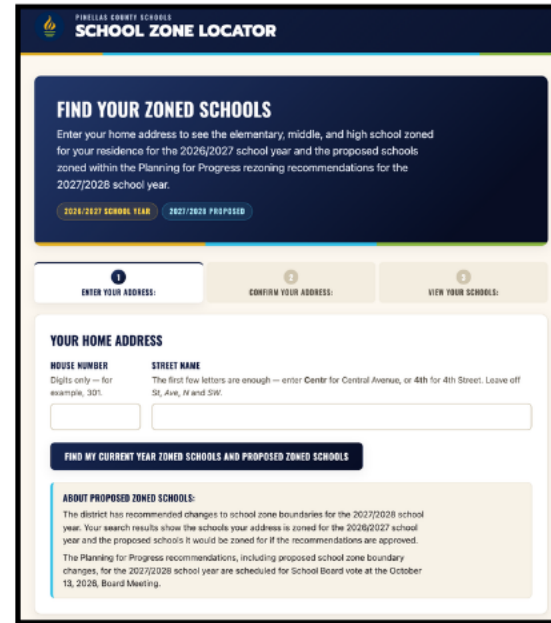
LEARN MORE AT WWW.PCSB.ORG/PROGRESS



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