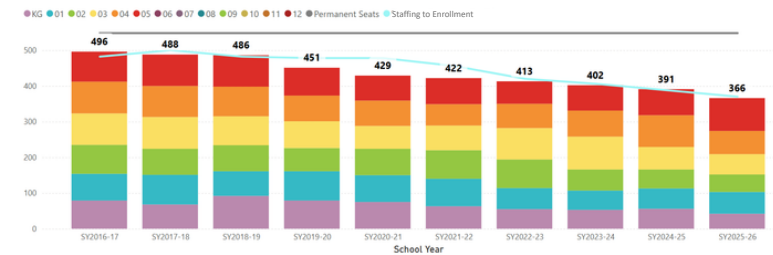


RECOMMENDATION: CREATE A K-8 SCHOOL BY COMBINING SUNSET HILLS ELEMENTARY AND TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL ON THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS BEGINNING IN THE 2027-28 SCHOOL YEAR

This recommendation combines Sunset Hills Elementary and Tarpon Springs Middle (TSMS) schools into a K-8 school on the middle school campus beginning in the 2027-28 school year. All current District Application Programs (DAP) will remain. The PreK program at Sunset Hills Elementary will transition to Little Spongers at Tarpon Springs High School. The existing Sunset Hills Elementary and Tarpon Springs Middle zones will be rezoned to the Tarpon Springs zoned K-8 beginning in the 2027-28 school year. Additional seats may be available through the district's Special Assignment Request process, which opens in January 2027 for the 2027-28 school year. Transportation will be provided in accordance with School Board policy. If approved, the Tarpon Springs area will engage in a school-naming process for the two K-8 campuses.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND HISTORY

TABLE 1: SUNSET HILLS ES SCHOOL CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT



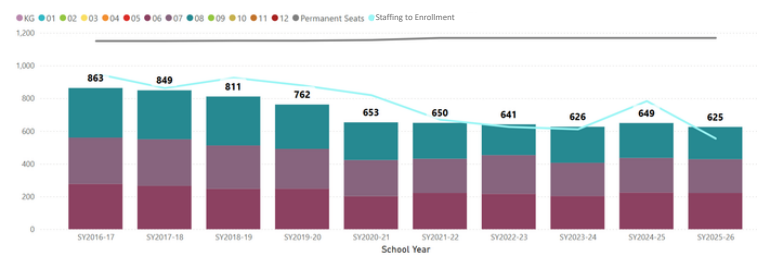
Official 2025-26 Count Snapshot Data (Survey 2), FISH and Program Capacity

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.

SUNSET HILLS ELEMENTARY

Year Opened: 1953
Grades Served: PK-5

TABLE 2: TSMS SCHOOL CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT



TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE

Year Opened: 1981
Grades Served: 6-8

TABLE 3: PROJECTED CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT

	2026-27 ENROLLMENT*	PERMANENT CAPACITY	UTILIZATION	PROJECTED ENROLLMENT	PROJECTED UTILIZATION
Sunset Hills ES	332	548	61%		
Tarpon Springs MS	610	1,169	52%		
Tarpon Springs K-8		1,052		920 [#]	87%
Carwise MS	829	1,251	66%	1,141**	91%

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

[#] Projected enrollment for the receiving school accounts for all students currently enrolled in K-7 at Sunset Hills and Tarpon Springs Middle, plus the 181 students currently enrolled in grades 3-5 at Tarpon Springs Elementary School.

**Projected enrollment for Carwise Middle boundary changes anticipates 75% market share of the zoned population.

Creating a K-8 program on a larger campus will provide space for enrollments of up to 480 in K-5 and 572 in middle school grades, making better use of the facility. As middle school families choose the proposed expansion for a Tarpon Springs K-8 Fundamental 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, Sunset Hills Elementary has received more than \$1.1 million in facility improvements and maintenance for chillers, interior paint, and the playground.

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- TARPON SPRINGS AREA

Total Savings: \$4.6M/year
Personnel: \$4M/year
Operational: \$590K/year

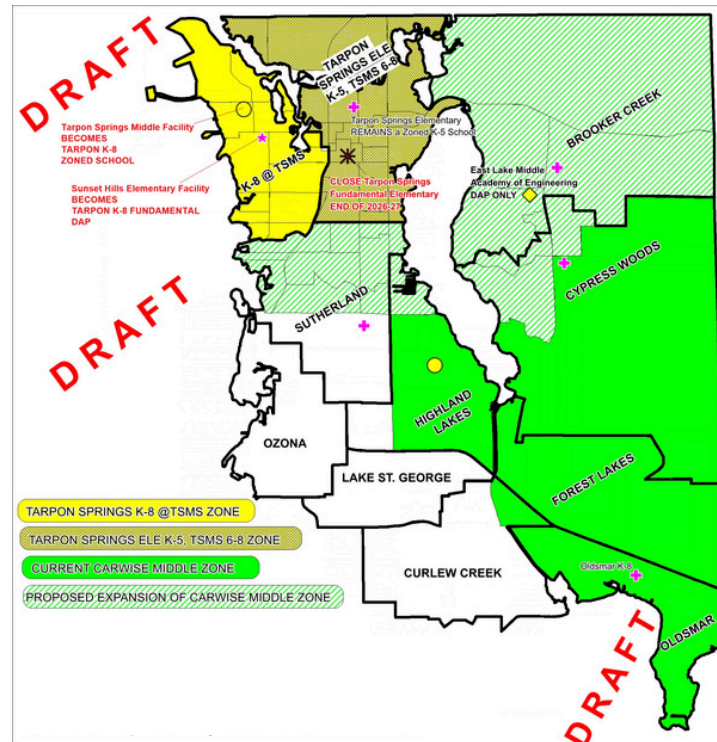
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND PROGRAM OFFERINGS

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 elementary and middle school Conservatory for the Arts programs, as well as the middle grades Cambridge program, will transition to the K-8 school. The current Tarpon Springs Middle zone will be adjusted to accommodate the K-8 population. Students who currently attend Brooker Creek, Cypress Woods, and Sutherland elementary schools who are currently zoned for TSMS will be rezoned to Carwise Middle School beginning in the 2027-28 school year. Approximately 469 PCS students live in the affected area that will be rezoned from Tarpon Springs Middle School to Carwise Middle School.

Students who currently attend Tarpon Springs Elementary will be zoned for the Tarpon Springs zoned K-8 for grades 6-8. Students who currently attend Sunset Hills Elementary and Tarpon Springs Middle will remain in the new K-8 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 K-8 program through the Special Assignment Request (SAR) process beginning in January 2027 for the 2027-28 school year. Transportation will be provided in alignment with School Board policy.

SCHOOL	2025-26 GRADE
Sunset Hills ES	A
Tarpon Springs ES	A
Tarpon Springs MS	B



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

POLICY 2250: FUNDAMENTAL AND MAGNET SCHOOLS

The elementary and middle school Conservatory for the Arts programs will transition to the Tarpon Springs K-8 School beginning in the 2027-28 school year.

POLICY 5120: ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT

This recommendation will rezone 20 grids and 469 students who live within the zone.

NEXT STEPS

RECOMMENDATION COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

- **Notification:**
 - Original notification occurred on Thursday, September 10, 2026, with updated notification on Monday, October 5, 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:**
 - Sunset Hills ES: Thursday, October 8, 2026; 6 p.m.
 - TSMS:
 - Tuesday, September 15, 2026; 6 p.m.
 - Monday, October 12, 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 campus.
 - 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.