PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

PLANNING FOR PROGRESS

A PORTFOLIO REVIEW OF PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

FALL 2026 RECOMMENDATIONS
SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: OCTOBER 6, 2026

PLANNING FOR PROGRESS

Pinellas County Schools (PCS) is committed to keeping stakeholders informed about recommendations and decisions that affect students, families, staff, and the community. In response to the ongoing decline in the county's school-age population, district staff have presented the enclosed recommendations to ensure resources are used efficiently and that students have access to high-quality learning environments.

PCS is committed to providing timely information and opportunities for community input throughout the process. Recommendations, site-specific timelines, stakeholder feedback, and community engagement opportunities are available at www.pcsb.org/progress.

Recommendations were presented to the School Board during the September 10, 2026, workshop. The School Board will review the recommendations and community feedback at the October 6, 2026, workshop.

These recommendations are scheduled for public discussion and a vote by the School Board at the regularly scheduled School Board meeting on October 13, 2026. If approved, the recommendations will take effect beginning with the school year specified in each recommendation.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The recommendations developed through the Planning for Progress process were guided by a comprehensive set of principles designed to ensure decisions support student success, maximize district resources, and reflect community priorities. Recommendations were evaluated through multiple lenses to balance educational opportunities, operational efficiency, and long-term sustainability. Key guiding principles include:

- **Student-Centered Opportunities:** Ensuring students have access to educational opportunities that are at least as good as, or better than, those currently available. Recommendations were evaluated based on their ability to maintain or enhance academic programs, student experiences, and access to support services.
- **Enrollment and Demand Trends:** Analyzing historical and projected enrollment patterns, school-level demand, and demographic trends to identify opportunities for more efficient use of facilities and alignment of resources with student populations.
- **Grade Configuration and Community Demand:** Considering the effectiveness and community interest in various school configurations, including K-5, K-8, 6-8, and 9-12 models, while evaluating the impact of potential changes on students, families, and communities.
- **Program Availability and Geographic Distribution:** Reviewing the location of academic, career, technical, and specialized programs across the district to ensure access and the strategic placement of educational offerings.
- **Site Capacity, Building Utilization, and Facility Investments:** Assessing the effectiveness of existing facility utilization, available capacity, and the level of investment or improvement needed to support future educational programs and operational requirements.
- **Community Development and Demographic Analysis:** Evaluating zip code-level population trends, housing development activity, and other community growth indicators to better understand future enrollment patterns and facility needs.
- **Public and Private Partnership Opportunities:** Identifying opportunities to leverage partnerships that enhance educational programming, expand services, optimize facility usage, or create additional value for students and communities.
- **School Attendance Boundaries and Transportation Considerations:** Reviewing school zones, feeder patterns, transportation routes, travel times, and operational efficiencies to ensure recommendations support student access while minimizing transportation impacts where possible.
- **Stakeholder Input and Community Priorities:** Incorporating feedback gathered through extensive stakeholder engagement, including students, families, staff, community members, business leaders, and other partners. Public input plays a critical role in ensuring recommendations reflect the values and priorities of the communities served.

Collectively, these guiding principles provide a balanced framework for evaluating options and developing recommendations that support high-quality educational opportunities, responsible stewardship of district resources, and the long-term success of Pinellas County Schools.

COMMUNITY INPUT SUMMARY AND THEMES

440+ stakeholders attended community meetings

2,500+ responses to the community survey

Since November 2025, Pinellas County Schools has sought community input to inform the Planning for Progress process. More than 2,500 responses were received during the July 2026 community meetings and stakeholder survey window. Community input continues to inform recommendations and decision-making. Input was summarized, reviewed, and discussed by the School Board during the workshop on August 13, 2026.

School communities impacted by the fall 2026 recommendations will be invited to participate in site-specific meetings between September 14 and October 6, 2026 at individual school sites.

COMMUNITY INPUT THEMES

- Additional K-8 schools; continuity and smoother transition for students in a K-8 model. Opposition to a 6-12 model.
- Combine and consolidate underenrolled schools in close proximity to each other.
- Preserve and strengthen neighborhood schools.
- Preserve magnet and fundamental programs.
- Allow community-specific needs and demands to guide programmatic changes.
- Expand and improve technical programs and technical high schools.
- Retain strong teachers and support staff.
- Repurpose closed campuses for community use, such as childcare centers, career and technical education, youth development, and community recreational centers.
- Utilize vacant buildings on elementary campuses or closed campuses for high-quality, affordable childcare and early learning.

READ THE FULL JULY 2026 COMMUNITY FEEDBACK REPORT AND VIEW ALL COMMUNITY COMMENTS AT WWW.PCSB.ORG/PROGRESS

RECOMMENDATION TIMELINE: NEXT STEPS

SITE-BASED COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT
SEPT. 2026

Site-specific meetings for staff, families, and the community to discuss the individual recommendations. These meetings provide information and answer questions submitted by stakeholders.

Any closure recommendation will have additional community meetings prior to October 6, 2026.

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP
OCT. 6, 2026

District staff provides a brief presentation that includes input from school staff and community meetings. School Board members discuss recommendations.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING & VOTE
OCT. 13, 2026

School Board members vote on individual recommendations during the regular public School Board meeting.

IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROVED ACTIONS
OCT. 13, 2026 - SUMMER 2027

Formal notification regarding approved actions sent directly to staff and families following the Board vote.

Development of site-specific action plans to ensure effective implementation of Board approvals.

Progress on action plans reported quarterly during School Board workshops.

OVERALL IMPACT

ESTIMATED DISTRICTWIDE UTILIZATION IMPACT

- Reduction of up to 4,740 student stations.

ESTIMATED DISTRICTWIDE BUDGETARY IMPACT

- Reduction of estimated $25 million in recurring annual expenses.
- Estimated one-time capital investment of $6.9 million.

FALL 2026 RECOMMENDATIONS OVERVIEW

DISTRICTWIDE

- **Expansion of early learning to 2-year-olds** beginning in 2027-28. PCS will provide accessible early learning programs for the community while maintaining tuition rates that support sustainable program operations. Program locations will be selected based on facility readiness and capacity.
- **Exploration of sites for Employee Wellness Centers.** The goal of the centers will be to provide employees with access to most primary care and urgent care services at little to no out-of-pocket cost.

NORTH COUNTY

- **Expand the number of seats at East Lake Middle School Academy of Engineering** beginning in 2027-28 to allow more students to enroll in this in-demand choice option.
- **Create a K-8 school by combining Sunset Hills Elementary and Tarpon Middle** beginning in 2027-28 on the middle school campus. 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. 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.
- **Expand Tarpon Springs Fundamental Elementary to a fundamental K-8 school** on the current Sunset Hills Elementary School campus 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. All students who attend grade 5 at Tarpon Springs Fundamental Elementary School will be able to attend grade 6 at the Fundamental K-8 School beginning in 2027-28. The transition to a K-8 school will occur over three years, adding grade 6 in 2027-28, grade 7 in 2028-29, and grade 8 in 2029-30.
- **Close and repurpose Kings Highway Elementary Magnet** at the end of the 2026-27 school year. As a district application program school, Kings Highway Elementary Magnet has no attendance zone; students will attend their zoned school or apply to a District Application Program (DAP). Current Kings Highway Elementary Magnet students will receive priority for enrollment at Sandy Lane Elementary. The ESE program will transition to Sandy Lane Elementary. Sandy Lane Elementary is newly renovated, directly adjacent to Kings Highway Elementary Magnet, and has available space for students.
- **Update school zone boundaries for Dunedin, Garrison-Jones, Sandy Lane, and San Jose elementary schools** beginning in the 2027-28 school year. The adjustments will better utilize available space, balance student enrollment across schools in the region, and support safer travel to school by reducing the need to cross major roadways. Currently enrolled students affected by a school zone boundary change, not due to the closure of their current school, may remain at their current school through a Special Assignment Request; however, transportation will not be provided.

FALL 2026 RECOMMENDATIONS OVERVIEW

MID COUNTY

- **Open a fundamental K-5 school at Pinellas Park Elementary School** beginning in the 2027-28 school year. **Close Pinellas Park Elementary** and rezone the current school boundary to Skyview and Lealman Avenue elementary schools. The K-5 fundamental school will be a District Application Program (DAP) with no zone, and the district's standard fundamental program admission priorities will apply.
- **Close Blanton Elementary** at the end of the 2026-27 school year. The current school boundary will be rezoned to Marjorie Rawlings, Westgate, and Lealman Avenue elementary schools. The Exceptional Student Education (ESE) program will transition to the new fundamental elementary school at Pinellas Park.
- **Update school zone boundaries for Skyview, Marjorie Rawlings, New Heights, Westgate, Lealman Avenue, and 74th Street elementary schools** beginning in the 2027-28 school year. The adjustments will better utilize available space, balance student enrollment across schools in the region, and support safer travel to school by reducing the need to cross major roadways. Currently enrolled students affected by a school zone boundary change, not due to the closure of their current school, may remain at their current school through a Special Assignment Request; however, transportation will not be provided.

SOUTH COUNTY

- **Create a technical high school at Boca Ciega High School** beginning in the 2028-29 school year**.** The 2027-28 school year will allow for thoughtful planning of technical pathways and remodeling needed for programming. The current Center for Wellness and Medical Professions pathways will be enhanced as part of the technical high school program offerings. The Boca Ciega High School zone will have minor changes.
- **Relocate and rename Azalea Middle School.** The middle school will move to the current building 4 at Boca Ciega High School beginning in the 2027-28 school year. Renovate the Boca Ciega campus to provide a separate address and space, including safety and security separation for the middle school. The new site will place the middle school closer to the center of the school zone, enables resource sharing between the middle and high schools, strengthens articulation when transitioning to the technical high school, and better utilizes the current high school facilities.
- **Transition Azalea Elementary School to a K-8 school with an expanded zone and relocate the campus.** The new Azalea K-8 will relocate to the current Azalea Middle School campus in 2028-29. All students who attend grade 5 at Azalea Elementary will be able to attend grade 6 at Azalea K-8 beginning in 2027-28. The transition to a K-8 school will occur over three years, adding grade 6 in 2027-28, grade 7 in 2028-29, and grade 8 in 2029-30. The Azalea K-8 school will be a zoned school, and the district's standard Special Assignment Request admission procedures will apply for students who do not reside in the Azalea Elementary zone. The new Azalea K-8 will relocate to the current Azalea Middle campus in 2028-29.
- **Close Bear Creek Elementary** at the end of the 2026-27 school year. The current school boundary will be rezoned to Gulfport Montessori and Fairmount Park elementary schools. The ESE program will relocate to Gulfport Montessori Elementary.
- **Close Sexton Elementary** at the end of the 2026-27 school year. The current school boundary will be rezoned to Woodlawn and Lynch elementary schools. The ESE program will transition to the new fundamental elementary school at Pinellas Park.
- **Close Lealman Innovation** at the end of the 2026-27 school year. Educational Alternative Services (EAS) resources will be assigned to the appropriate South County schools to directly support students in the programs. Current students will receive individualized consultation to identify supports at the appropriate middle or high schools. The closed Lealman Innovation property will be leased to Feeding Tampa Bay.
- **Update school zone boundaries for Lynch and Sawgrass Lake elementary schools** beginning in the 2027-28 school year. The adjustments will better utilize available space, balance student enrollment across schools in the region, and support safer travel to school by reducing the need to cross major roadways. Currently enrolled students affected by a school zone boundary change, not due to the closure of their current school, may remain at their current school through a Special Assignment Request (SAR); however, transportation will not be provided.

NORTH COUNTY RECOMMENDATIONS

FALL 2026 RECOMMENDATIONS
SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: OCTOBER 6, 2026

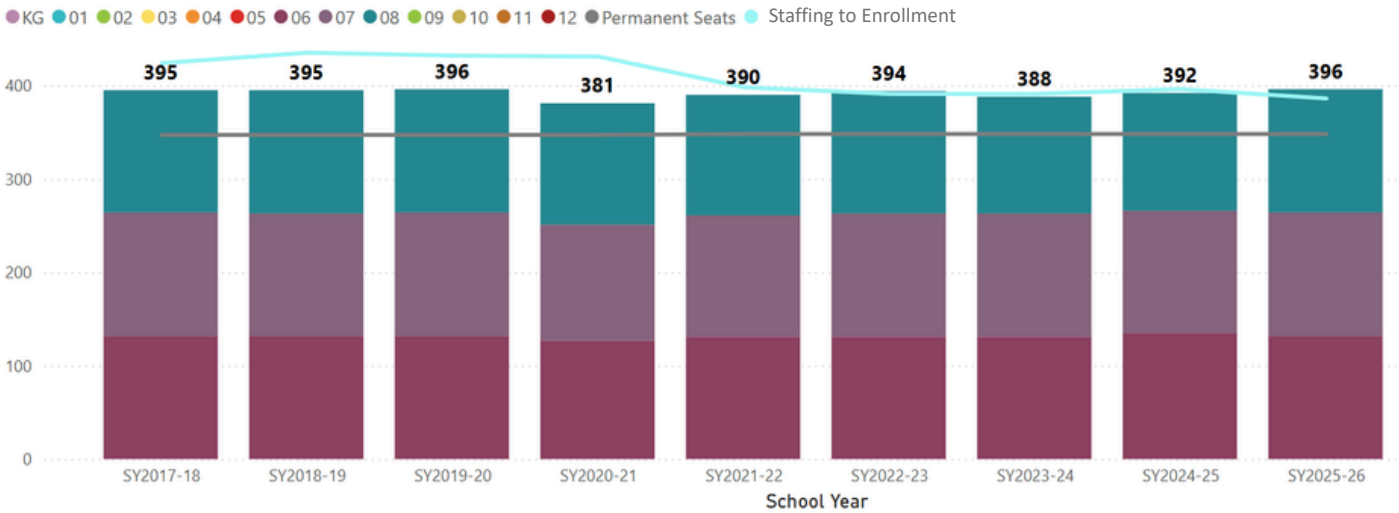
RECOMMENDATION: EXPAND EAST LAKE MIDDLE ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

This recommendation **expands East Lake Middle School Academy of Engineering** beginning in the 2027-28 school year. No programmatic changes are proposed. The expansion will increase enrollment capacity within the current campus, allowing more students to access the program. This recommendation aligns with the community's expressed support for preserving magnet programs, expanding technical programs, and using community demand to inform programmatic decisions.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND HISTORY

TABLE 1: EAST LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT

Year Opened: 2014
Grades Served: 6-8



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: PROJECTED EAST LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT

EAST LAKE MIDDLE	
2026-27 ENROLLMENT*	388
PERMANENT CAPACITY	348
UTILIZATION	114%
PROJECTED ENROLLMENT	462
PROJECTED CAPACTIY	462
PROJECTED UTILIZATION	100%

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

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

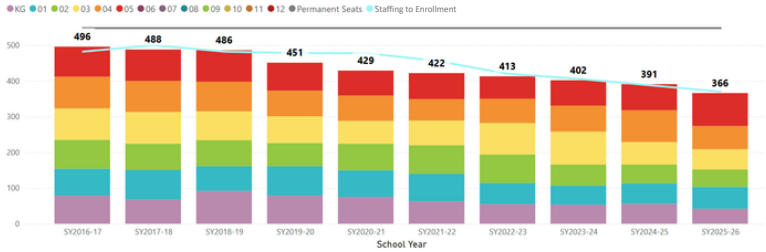
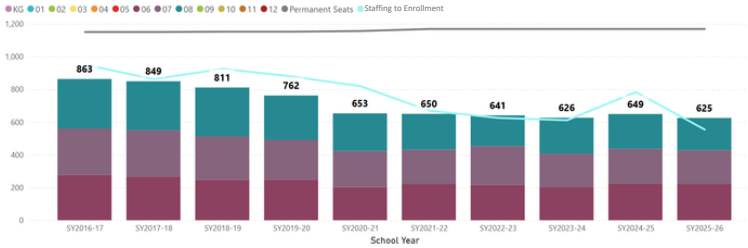


TABLE 2: TSMS SCHOOL CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT



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

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

UPDATED RECOMMENDATION — SUNSET HILLS ELEMENTARY AND TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE

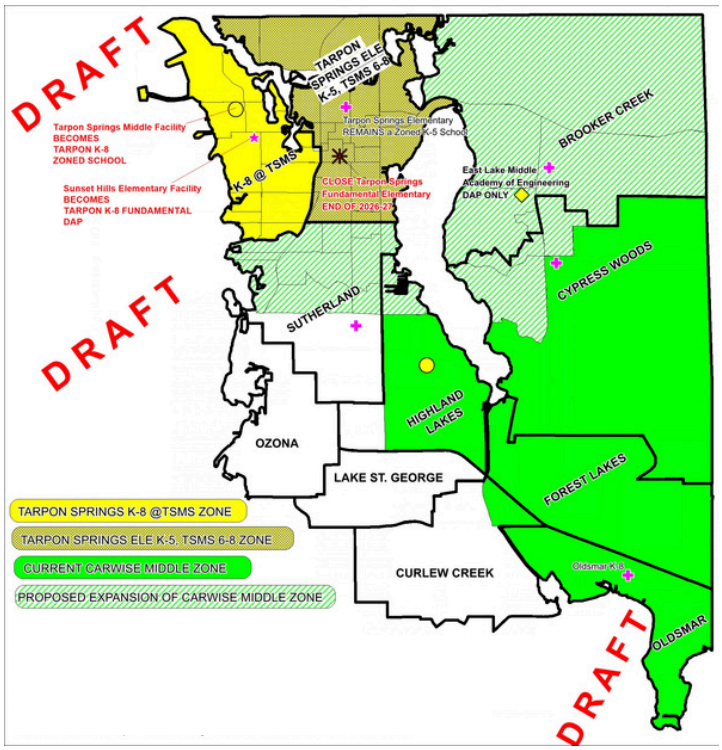
October 6, 2026

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.

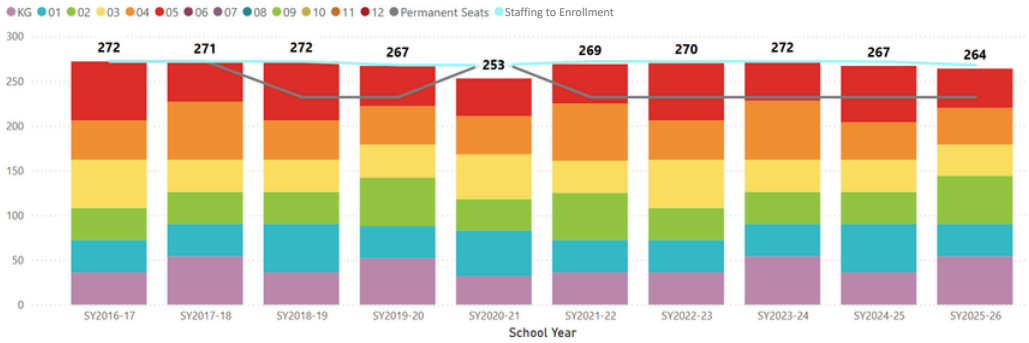
To learn more about any district recommendation, visit www.pcsb.org/progress.

RECOMMENDATION: EXPAND TARPON SPRINGS FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO A FUNDAMENTAL K-8 ON THE CURRENT SUNSET HILLS SCHOOL CAMPUS.

This recommendation **expands Tarpon Springs Fundamental Elementary to a fundamental K-8 school on the current Sunset Hills Elementary School campus 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. All students who attend grade 5 at Tarpon Springs Fundamental Elementary School will be able to attend grade 6 at the Fundamental K-8 School beginning in 2027-28. The transition to a K-8 school will occur over three years, adding grade 6 in 2027-28, grade 7 in 2028-29, and grade 8 in 2029-30. 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 the Tarpon Springs Fundamental K-8 School will be eligible to continue in grade 6 at the fundamental K-8 beginning in 2027-28. Additional seats may be available through the district's DAP process, which opens in January 2027 for the 2027-28 school year. 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: TSFES SCHOOL CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT



Year Opened: 1980

Grades Served: PK-5

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

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: PROJECTED CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT

	2026-27 ENROLLMENT*	PERMANENT CAPACITY	UTILIZATION	PROJECTED ENROLLMENT	PROJECTED UTILIZATION
Tarpon Springs Fund. ES	261	232	113%		
Tarpon Springs Fund. K-8		546		TBD	TBD

**2026-27 Enrollment as of the 10-day count (August 24, 2026).*
Projected enrollment for the Fundamental K-8 will expand over time, but is anticipated to be at capacity in alignment with other middle-grade fundamental programs across the district.

Creating a fundamental program on a larger campus will provide space to expand enrollment up to 348 in K-5, and 198 in middle school grade levels, making better use of the facility.

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.

ANTICIPATED FACILITIES INVESTMENTS

The Sunset Hills Elementary campus will require a $200,000 one-time capital improvement investment to convert existing classrooms into middle-grade science classrooms.

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT- TARPON SPRINGS AREA

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

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. Tarpon Springs Elementary Fundamental will no longer be offered as a DAP beginning in 2027-28. The district's standard fundamental program admission priorities will apply, and transportation will not be provided.

POLICY 5120: ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT

No amendments/changes needed as a result of this recommendation.

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.

ONGOING SCHOOL FAMILY/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

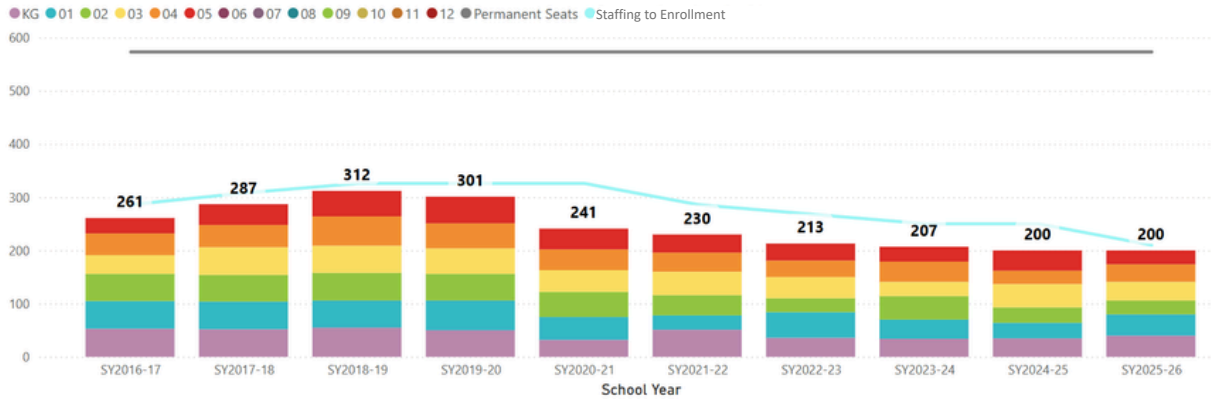
- **Family and Community Meetings:**
  - Monday, September 14, 2026; 6 p.m.
  - Monday, October 12, 2026; 6 p.m.

RECOMMENDATION: CLOSE KINGS HIGHWAY ELEMENTARY MAGNET

This recommendation **closes Kings Highway Elementary Magnet School (KHEMS) at the end of the 2026-27 school year. Kings Highway Elementary Magnet** currently serves 168 students in grades K-5, 75 PreK students, and 20 students in a full-time Exceptional Student Education (ESE) program. The ESE program will transition to Sandy Lane Elementary. Transportation may be provided in alignment with School Board policy.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND HISTORY

TABLE 1: KINGS HIGHWAY ES CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT



Year Opened: 1958
Grades Served: PK-5
Site Utilization Impact: Decreases district student stations by 573

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: PROEJCTED CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT FOR IMPACTED SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	2026-27 ENROLLMENT*	PERMANENT CAPACITY	UTILIZATION	PROJECTED ENROLLMENT**	PROJECTED UTITLIZATION
Kings Highway ES	168	573	29%		
Sandy Lane ES	328	588	56%	424	72%
Skycrest ES	377	797	47%	406	51%

**2026-27 Enrollment as of the 10-day count (August 24, 2026).*
Projected enrollment includes currently enrolled students from the closing school who are zoned to the receiving school, plus the receiving school's current enrollment.

The majority of Kings Highway Elementary Magnet students live in the Sandy Lane (96 students) and Skycrest (29 students) elementary school zones. Most of the remaining students are zoned for nine elementary school zones: Dunedin, Ponce de Leon, Eisenhower, High Point, Belleair, Plumb, Frontier, Garrison-Jones, and Safety Harbor elementary schools, with 10 or fewer Kings Highway Elementary Magnet students zoned for each school. All receiving schools have sufficient capacity to accommodate these students.

FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

RECENT FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

PROJECT	YEAR	INVESTMENT COST
Parking Lot	2020	$37K
Exterior Paint	2020	$119K
Chiller	2021	$527K
Roof	2021	$121K
Plumbing	2023	$177K
PE Restrooms	2024	$97K
Interior Paint	2024	$232K

ANTICIPATED FACILITIES INVESTMENT

Kings Highway Elementary Magnet has $1.4M in capital improvement investments for roofing planned in the upcoming years.

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT

Total Savings: $3.7M/year

Personnel: $3.4M/year

Operational: $391K/year

Capital Investment: The recommendation is to repurpose or lease the Kings Highway Elementary Magnet property for childcare and early learning.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Kings Highway Elementary Magnet earned a B school grade in 2025-26. 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.

TABLE 4: SCHOOL GRADES OF RECEIVING SCHOOLS

KHEMS STUDENTS REZONED TO:	2025-26 SCHOOL GRADE
Sandy Lane ES	A
Skycrest ES	A

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

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

POLICY 2250: FUNDAMENTAL AND MAGNET SCHOOLS

The Kings Highway Center for Digital Learning and STEAM will no longer be a District Application Program (DAP) beginning in the 2027-28 school year.

POLICY 5120: ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT

No amendments/changes needed as a result of this recommendation.

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 Meeting #1 Recommendation Overview:** Thursday, September 17, 2026; 6 p.m.
- **Family and Community Meeting #2:** Wednesday, October 7, 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 or 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.

To learn more about any district recommendation, visit www.pcsb.org/progress.

ADDITIONAL ZONE ADJUSTMENTS

The elementary school zones for Dunedin, Garrison-Jones, San Jose, and Sandy Lane elementary schools will be adjusted slightly to best balance student enrollment across schools in the area and to minimize transportation across major roadways. Transportation may be provided in alignment with School Board policy. Currently enrolled students affected by a school zone boundary change, not due to the closure of their current school, may choose to remain at their current school through Special Assignment Request; however, transportation will not be provided.

TABLE 1: CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT FOR IMPACTED SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	2026-27 ENROLLMENT*	PERMANENT CAPACITY	UTILIZATION	PROJECTED ENROLLMENT**	PROJECTED UTITLIZATION
Dunedin ES	356	728	49%	460	63%
Garrison-Jones ES	439	602	73%	TBD (Based on District Application Program Enrollment)	
San Jose ES	272	511	53%	337	66%
Sandy Lane ES	328	588	56%	424	72%

**2026-27 Enrollment as of the 10-day count (August 24, 2026). **Projected enrollment for boundary changes anticipates 75% market share of the zoned population.*
Note: Sandy Lane's projected enrollment accounts for the current enrollment of Sandy Lane and the current Kings Highway students who are zoned for Sandy Lane.

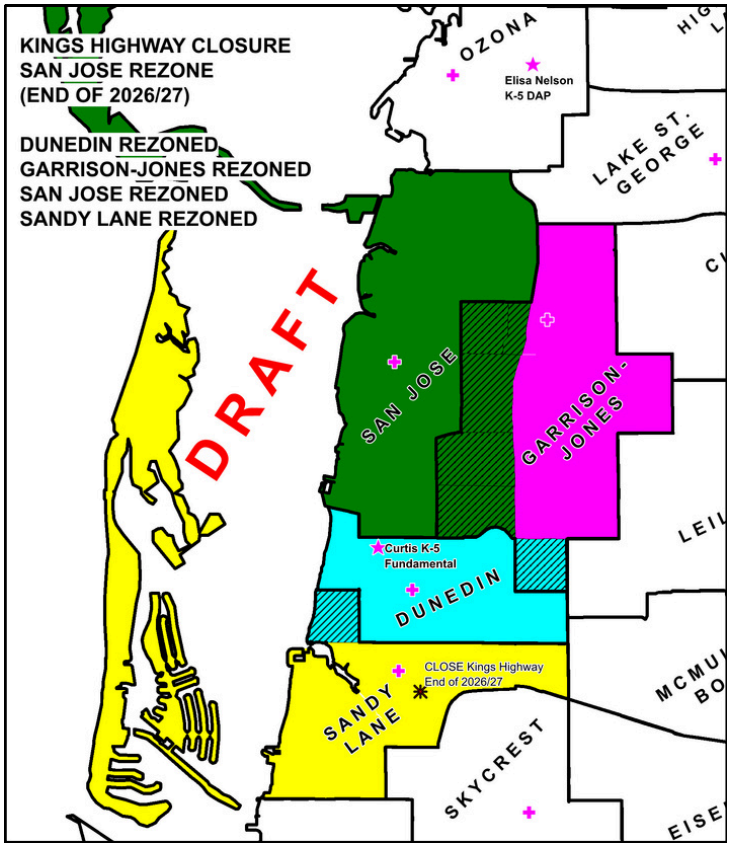
TABLE 2: SCHOOL GRADES OF IMPACTED SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	2025-26 SCHOOL GRADE
Dunedin ES	A
Garrison-Jones ES	A
San Jose ES	A
Sandy Lane ES	A

Based on 2025-26 school grade rules, all impacted schools are estimated to remain within 1 percentage point of the current school grade.

TABLE 3: NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN EACH SCHOOL ZONE

SCHOOL	2026-27 ZONED POPULATION	PROJECTED ZONED POPULATION
Dunedin ES	524	613
Garrison-Jones ES	551	366
San Jose ES	317	449
Sandy Lane ES	626	590



NEXT STEPS

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.
  - Families interested in additional options for the 2027-28 school year can engage in the choice process during the District Application Program and Special Assignment Request windows.

To learn more about any district recommendation, visit www.pcsb.org/progress.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

POLICY 2250: FUNDAMENTAL AND MAGNET SCHOOLS

No amendments/changes needed as a result of this recommendation.

POLICY 5120: ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT

This recommendation will rezone 7 grids and 221 students who live within the zones.

MID COUNTY RECOMMENDATIONS

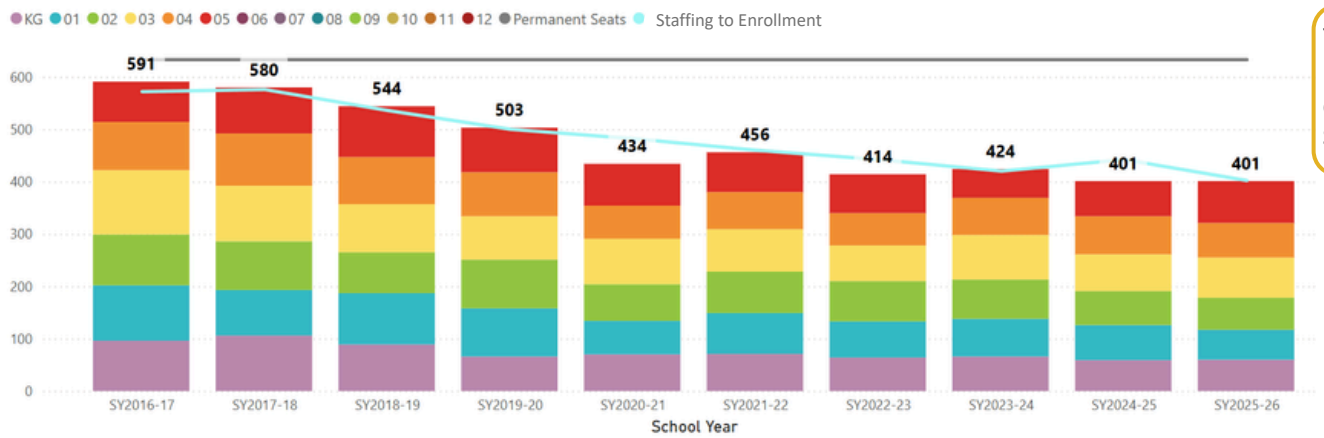
FALL 2026 RECOMMENDATIONS
SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: OCTOBER 6, 2026

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

This recommendation opens **Pinellas Park Elementary School (PPES) as a K-5 fundamental school beginning in the 2027-28 school year**. Pinellas Park Elementary will close at the end of the 2026-27 school year. The existing school boundary will be rezoned to nearby Skyview and Lealman Avenue elementary schools. The current full-time Exceptional Student Education (ESE) program at Pinellas Park Elementary will relocate to the established program at Seminole Elementary. The ESE program at Blanton Elementary will transition to the new fundamental K-5 at Pinellas Park Elementary in the 2027-28 school year. The fundamental school will operate as a District Application Program (DAP) with no zone and the district's standard fundamental admission priorities will apply. For the 2027-28 school year, students currently enrolled at Pinellas Park Elementary will have the choice to opt-in to attend the new fundamental school, agreeing to all fundamental program requirements. Transportation will not be provided.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND HISTORY

TABLE 1: PINELLAS PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT



Year Opened: 1956

Grades Served: PK-5

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: PROJECTED CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT FOR IMPACTED SCHOOLS

	2026-27 ENROLLMENT*	PERMANENT CAPACITY	UTILIZATION	PROJECTED ENROLLMENT	PROJECTED UTILIZATION
Pinellas Park ES	357	633	56%		
Lealman Ave ES	299	541	55%	399 *(75% of Zoned Population)*	74%
Skyview ES	461	703	66%	602**	88%
Pinellas Park Fundamental				TBD	TBD

**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.*

The rezoning of the current Pinellas Park Elementary zone will increase utilization of Lealman Avenue Elementary and Skyview Elementary. Creating a fundamental school on the site of the current Pinellas Park Elementary aligns with the community's support for additional fundamental schools and could reduce waitlists for the district's existing K-5 fundamental schools. Additional school boundary adjustments will be made for Lealman Avenue Elementary as described on the page for boundary adjustments for Mid County.

FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

RECENT FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

PROJECT	YEAR	INVESTMENT COST
Roof	2015	$2.2M
Exterior Paint	2016	$180K
Windows	2017	$700K
Playground	2024	$125K

ESTIMATED FACILITIES INVESTMENT

This recommendation will require an additional capital investment of approximately $250K for potential adjustments needed for the new ESE program. Within the current capital plan, there is a planned investment of ~$1.5 million for flooring, interior paint, and fire alarm projects.

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT

Capital Investment: ~$250K (One-time)

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Pinellas Park Elementary has earned a school grade of C or D since the 2015-16 school year. The recommendation for closure and rezoning provides students access to schools with consistent records of academic achievement and student success. The ESE program will transition to the established program at Seminole Elementary, which earned a school grade of B in the 2025-26 school year.

TABLE 3: SCHOOL GRADES OF RECEIVING SCHOOLS

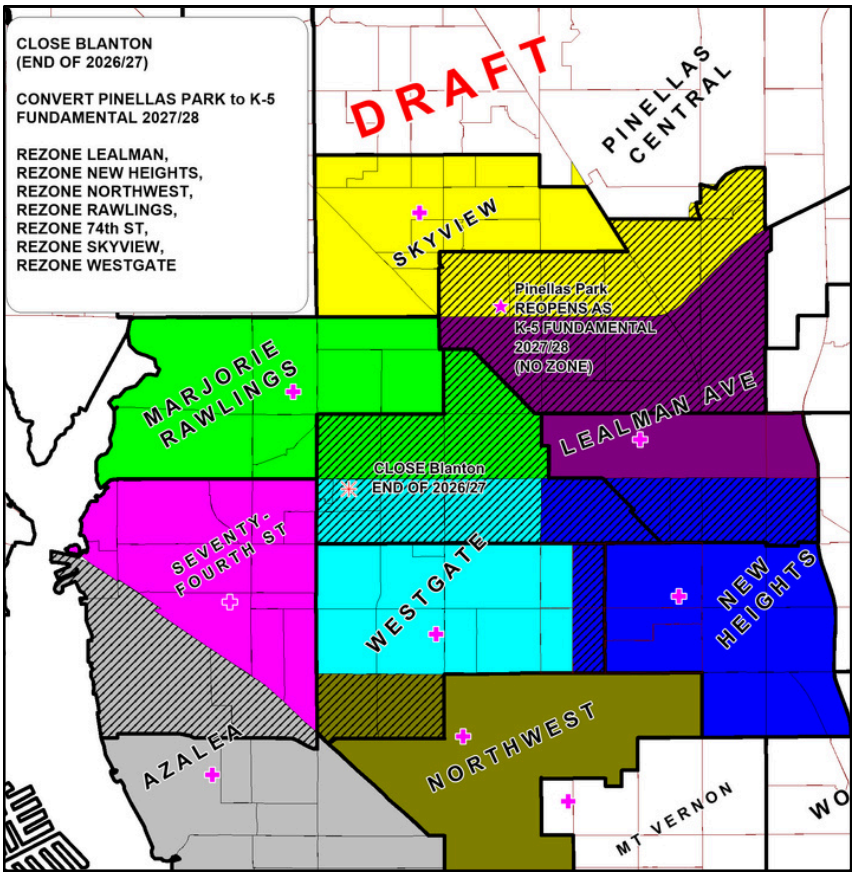
PPES STUDENTS REZONED TO:	2025-26 SCHOOL GRADE
Lealman Ave ES	B
Skyview ES	B

Based on 2025-26 school grade rules, all receiving schools are estimated to remain within two percentage points of the current school grades.

TABLE 4: NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY ZONE

PPES STUDENTS REZONED TO:	PPES ENROLLED*	PPES ZONED# (2025-26)
Lealman Ave ES	176	324
Skyview ES	141	252

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



POLICY IMPLICATIONS (FIRST READING ON 10/13/26; SECOND READING ON 11/20/26)

POLICY 2250: FUNDAMENTAL AND MAGNET SCHOOLS

The new K-5 fundamental school will have no zone and 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 13 grids and 576 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 Meeting #1 Recommendation Overview:** Wednesday, September 16, 2026; 6 p.m.
- **Family and Community Meeting #2:** Tuesday, October 6, 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 the recommendation is approved by the School Board, the district will begin the process to make physical updates to the current school campus.

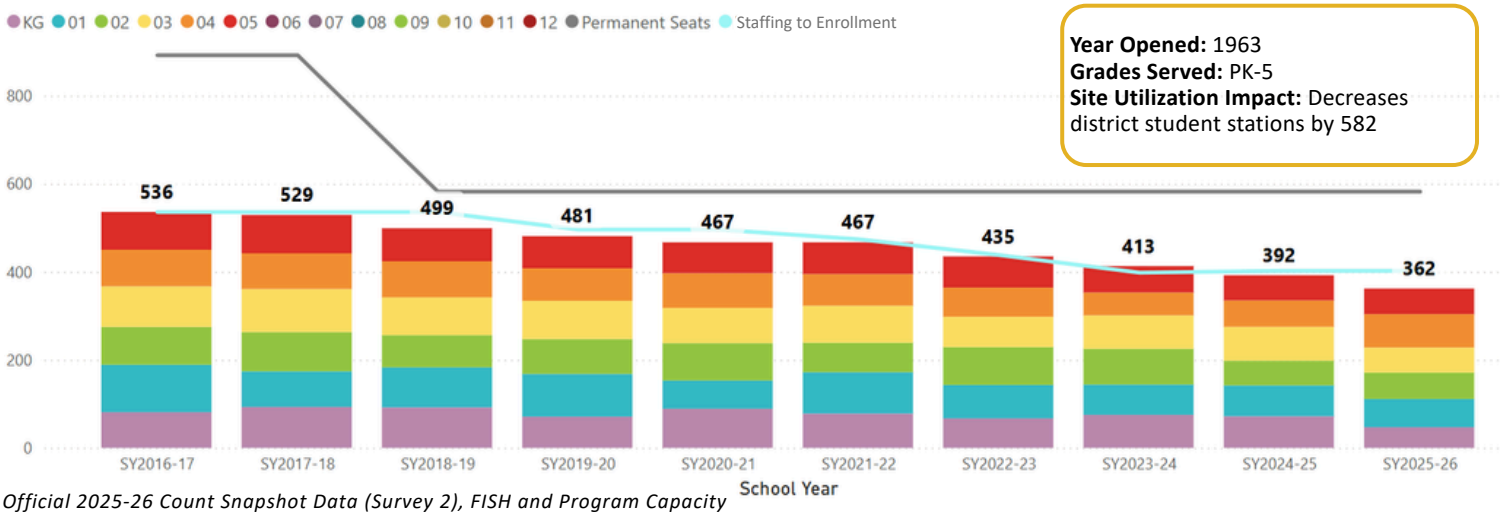
To learn more about any district recommendation, visit www.pcsb.org/progress.

RECOMMENDATION: CLOSE BLANTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This recommendation **closes Blanton Elementary School (BES) at the end of the 2026-27 school year.** Blanton Elementary currently serves 346 students in grades K-5, including approximately 24 students in a full-time Exceptional Student Education (ESE) program. 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.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND HISTORY

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.

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*

FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

RECENT FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

PROJECT	YEAR	COST
Roof	2016	$105k
Restroom	2016	$165K
Plumbing	2022	$134K
Flooring	2024	$636K
Roof	2025	$216K

ESTIMATED FACILITIES INVESTMENT

Blanton Elementary has ~$2.24 million in capital improvement investment needs (e.g., HVAC, interior/exterior paint, fire alarm, etc.) expected in the upcoming years.

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT

Total Savings: $4.4M/year
Personnel: $3.9M/year
Operational: $494K/year

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND PROGRAM OFFERINGS

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. The ESE program at Blanton Elementary will transition to the new K-5 fundamental school that will open on the current Pinellas Park Elementary campus.

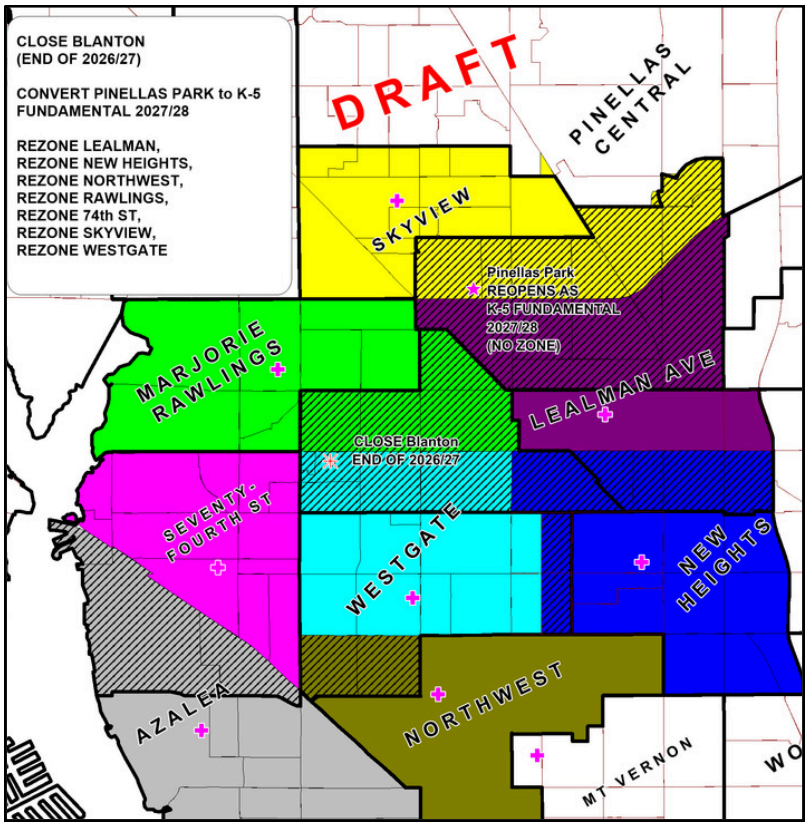


TABLE 3: SCHOOL GRADES OF RECEIVING SCHOOLS

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.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS (FIRST READING ON 10/13/26; SECOND READING ON 11/20/26)

POLICY 2250: FUNDAMENTAL AND MAGNET SCHOOLS

No amendments/changes needed as a result of this recommendation.

POLICY 5120: ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT

This recommendation rezones 10 grids and 444 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 Meeting #1 Recommendation Overview:** Thursday, September 17, 2026; 6 p.m.
- **Family and Community Meeting #2:** Tuesday October 6, 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.

To learn more about any district recommendation, visit www.pcsb.org/progress.

ADDITIONAL ZONE ADJUSTMENTS

The elementary school zones for Lealman Avenue and Westgate elementary schools will be adjusted slightly to best balance student enrollment across schools in the area. Based on 2025-26 school grade rules, all receiving schools are estimated to remain within two percentage points of their current school grades. Currently enrolled students affected by a school zone boundary change, not due to the closure of their current school, may choose to remain at their current school through a Special Assignment Request; however, transportation will not be provided.

TABLE 1: CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT FOR IMPACTED SCHOOLS

	2026-27 ENROLLMENT*	PERMANENT CAPACITY	UTILIZATION	PROJECTED ENROLLMENT**	PROJECTED UTILIZATION
Lealman Avenue ES	299	541	55%	399	74%
Westgate ES	389	616	63%	481	78%

**2026-27 Enrollment as of the 10-day count (August 24, 2026). **Projected enrollment for boundary changes anticipates 75% market share of the zoned population.*

TABLE 2: SCHOOL GRADES OF IMPACTED SCHOOLS

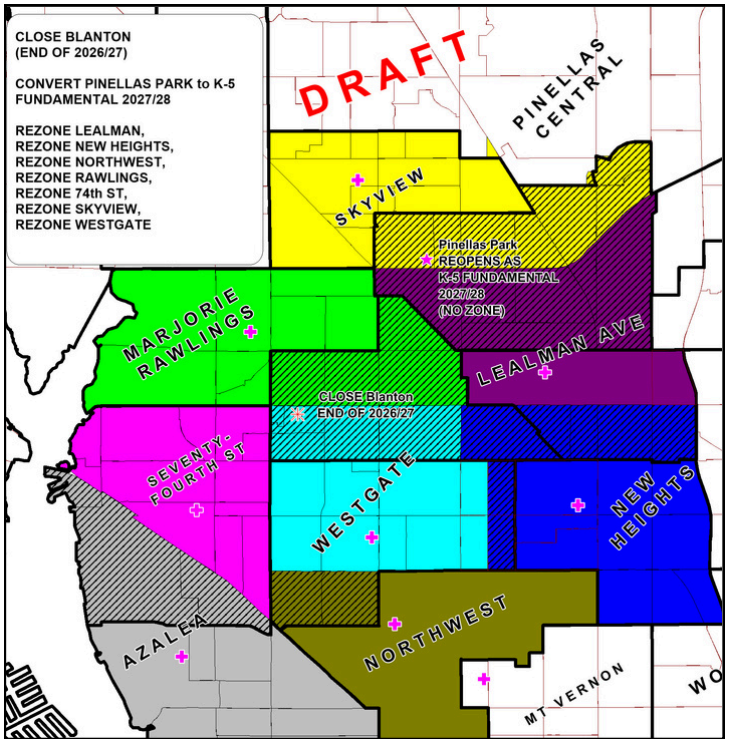
SCHOOL	2025-26 SCHOOL GRADE
Lealman Avenue ES	B
Westgate ES	A

Based on 2025-26 school grade rules, the impacted schools are estimated to remain within two percentage points of the current school grade.

TABLE 3: NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN EACH SCHOOL ZONE

SCHOOL	CURRENTLY ZONED	PROJECTED ZONED
Lealman Avenue ES	459	532
Westgate ES	565	641

The map also depicts school boundary changes to New Heights and Northwest elementary schools that do not result in a zone change for the students who live within those current zones. Ultimately, those zones are expanding and have an impact on some of the students who live in the current Westgate and Lealman Avenue elementary zones, as described on this page.



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

POLICY 2250: FUNDAMENTAL AND MAGNET SCHOOLS

No amendments/changes needed as a result of this recommendation.

POLICY 5120: ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT

This recommendation will rezone 6 grids and 313 students who live within the grids.

NEXT STEPS

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.
  - Families interested in additional options for the 2027-28 school year can engage in the choice process during the District Application Program and Special Assignment Request windows.

To learn more about any district recommendation, visit www.pcsb.org/progress.

SOUTH COUNTY RECOMMENDATIONS

FALL 2026 RECOMMENDATIONS
SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: OCTOBER 6, 2026

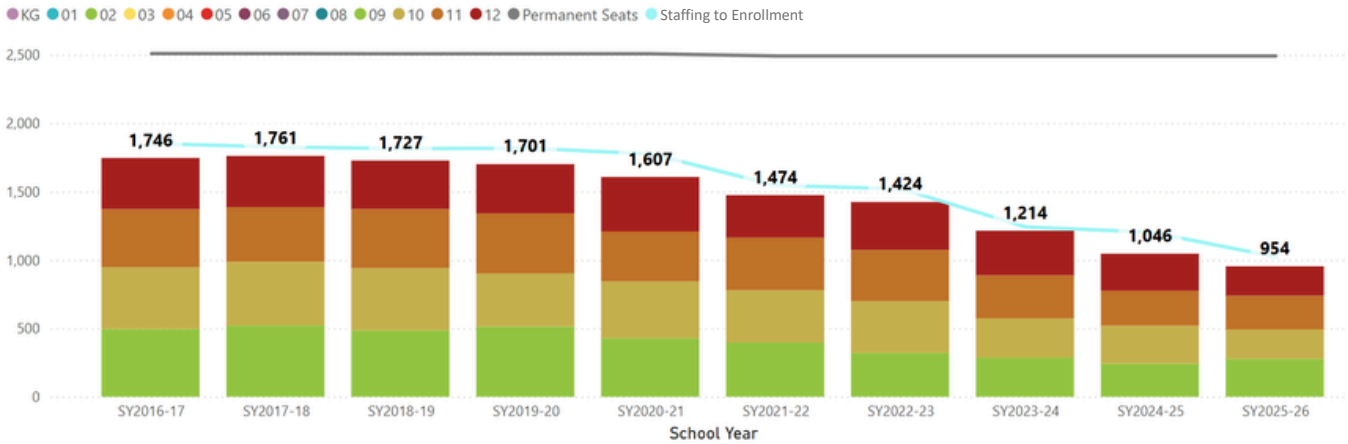
RECOMMENDATION: CREATE A TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL AT BOCA CIEGA HIGH SCHOOL

This recommendation establishes a **technical high school at Boca Ciega High School (BCHS) beginning in the 2028-29 school year**. The district is committed to partnering with local employers, colleges, and community leaders to provide meaningful real-world experiences that prepare students for college, careers, and life. No changes are recommended to the current Center for Wellness and Medical Professions District Application Program (DAP). If approved by the Board, the district will initiate a year-long planning and community engagement process to design academic programs that align with the interests and needs of students, families, and the community. Additionally, a portion of the campus will be re-parceled to establish a separate address for building 4, which will serve as the relocation site for Azalea Middle School and reduce the permanent capacity of the Boca Ciega High campus.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND HISTORY

Boca Ciega High currently has an enrollment of 967 students and a building capacity of 2,492 student stations, resulting in 39% utilization. Expanding the academic programs will provide students with opportunities for specialized training and hands-on learning across a variety of programs and degree fields, while making better use of the campus and increasing enrollment.

TABLE 1: BOCA CIEGA HIGH SCHOOL CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT



Year Opened: 1953

Grades Served: 9-12

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.

As part of this recommendation, the capacity will be reduced for the technical high school at Boca Ciega by approximately 1,500 student stations. This reduction reflects the planned re-parceling of the property to establish a separate address for building 4, which will serve as the relocation site for Azalea Middle. To learn more about the Azalea Middle renaming and relocation recommendation, review the dedicated pages for Azalea Middle.

TABLE 2: BOCA CIEGA CAMPUS PROJECTED ENROLLMENT AND CAPACITY

BOCA CIEGA HS CAMPUS	
2026-27 ENROLLMENT*	967
PERMANENT CAPACITY	2,492
UTILIZATION	39%
PROJECTED ENROLLMENT	807
PROJECTED CAPACITY	1,066
PROJECTED UTILIZATION	76%

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

FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

RECENT FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

PROJECT	YEAR	INVESTMENT COST
Parking lot paving	2020	$110K
Carpet	2021	$121K
Elevator	2025	$119K

ESTIMATED FACILITIES INVESTMENT

The current Boca Ciega High campus has sufficient classroom capacity to support technical high school programs. While some classroom modifications may be needed to create specialized laboratory and hands-on learning spaces, these improvements can be phased in over time and may present opportunities for partnerships and sponsorships with industry and community organizations.

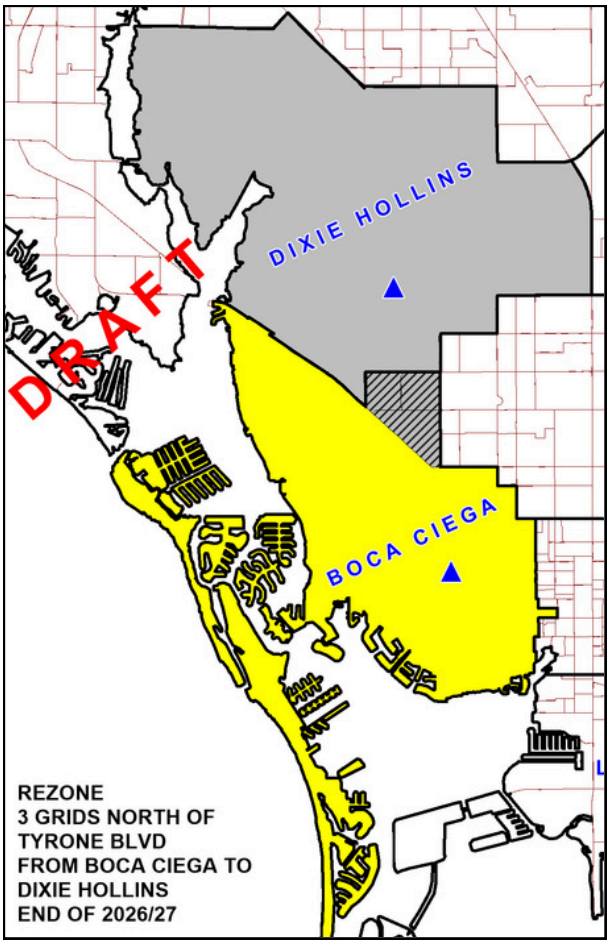
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND PROGRAM OFFERINGS

The technical high school at Boca Ciega High will be a college- and career-focused public high school that combines rigorous academics with hands-on, real-world learning experiences. Building on and expanding the renowned Center for Wellness and Medical Professions, the school will provide students with access to specialized Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways aligned with high-demand industries. Similar to Richard O. Jacobson Technical High School, all students will participate in specialized programs that provide in-demand skills, opportunities to earn industry certifications, and experiences that prepare them for college and careers.

Starting in Spring 2027 and continuing throughout the 2027-28 school year, the school and community will engage in a transition process to identify pathways for the technical high school. The fundamental program will begin to phase out over the next three school years. Starting in 2027-28, the fundamental program will no longer accept new applicants to the fundamental program at Boca Ciega High.

Students currently zoned for Boca Ciega High will remain zoned for the technical high school and will be offered a traditional high school experience, including athletics and extracurricular activities, enhanced with embedded CTE pathways. Every student will graduate prepared for multiple postsecondary options, including colleges and universities, technical schools, military, apprenticeships, and direct entry into the workforce, and will also earn industry-recognized credentials. If a student is zoned for Boca Ciega High and does not wish to attend the technical high school, a transportation zone will be established, and transportation will be provided to a designated traditional high school starting in the 2028-29 school year.

The technical high school will be available to students throughout the south county application area through the District Application Program (DAP) process, providing more students with access to specialized college and career pathways starting in the 2028-29 school year.



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

POLICY 5120: ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT

The fundamental program at Boca Ciega High will phase out as the school transitions to a technical high school; therefore, the fundamental program will not be a choice option beginning in the 2027-28 school year. Development of the District Application Program (DAP) choices aligned with the technical high school pathways will occur in the 2027-28 school year and will be reflected in policy amendments for the 2028-29 school year.

POLICY 2250: FUNDAMENTAL AND MAGNET SCHOOLS

This recommendation will rezone 3 grids and 118 students who live within the grids.

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:**
  - Tuesday, September 15, 2026; 6 p.m.

To learn more about any district recommendation, visit www.pcsb.org/progress.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Meet with faculty and staff members who may have specific questions regarding the recommendation and how it may impact them individually.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- If the recommendation is approved by the School Board, the district will begin a year-long community engagement and planning process to develop academic programs that reflect student and community interests. The process will include opportunities for students, families, staff, community members, and local partners to provide input as the district designs its specialized programs and a collective culture of excellence.

OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES

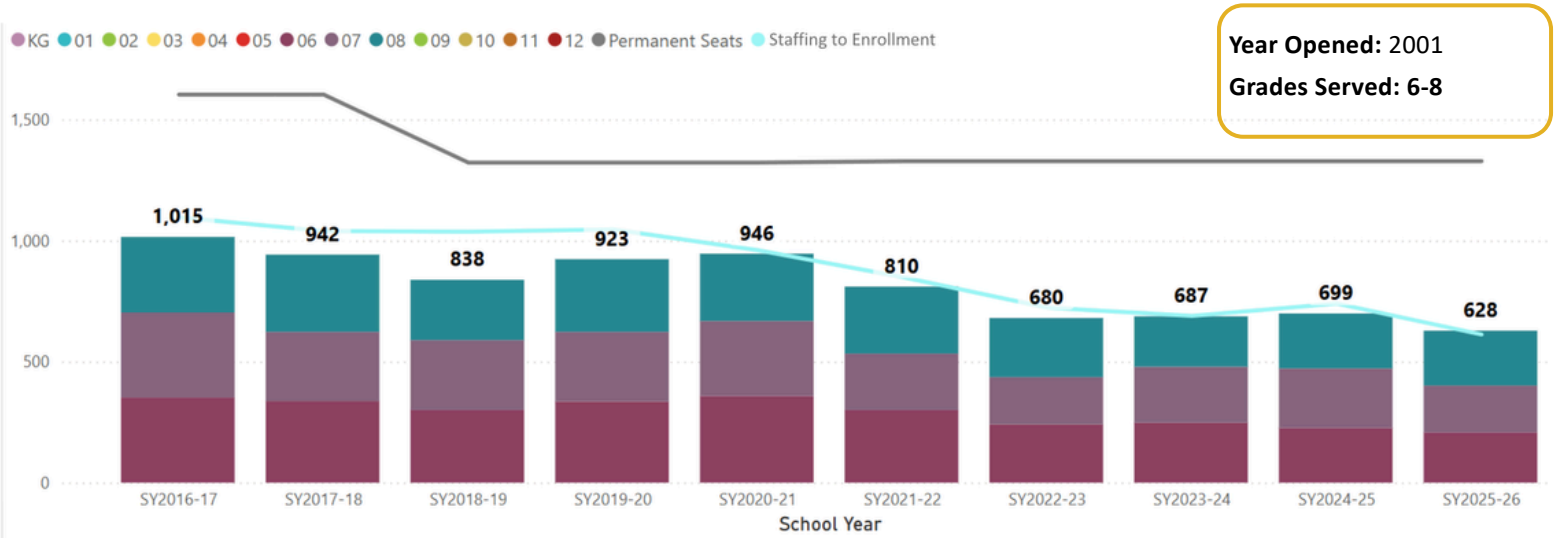
- If the recommendation is approved by the School Board, begin the process to evaluate the need for physical updates to the current school campus (e.g., lab space).

RECOMMENDATION: RELOCATE AND RENAME AZALEA MIDDLE SCHOOL

This recommendation **relocates and renames Azalea Middle School (AMS).** The middle school will move to the current building 4 at Boca Ciega High School (BCHS) beginning in the 2027-28 school year. The Boca Ciega High campus will be renovated to provide a separate address and space, including safety and security measures and separation of the middle school from the high school. The new site will place the middle school closer to the center of the zone, enable resource sharing between the middle and high schools, will provide continuity of pathways when transitioning to the technical high school, and better utilizes the current high school facilities. Transportation may be provided in alignment with School Board policy.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND HISTORY

TABLE 1: AZALEA MIDDLE SCHOOL CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT



Year Opened: 2001

Grades Served: 6-8

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: PROJECTED ENROLLMENT AND CAPACITY

	2026-27 ENROLLMENT*	PERMANENT CAPACITY	UTILIZATION	PROJECTED ENROLLMENT	PROJECTED CAPACITY	PROJECTED UTILIZATION
Azalea MS	588	1,328	44%	741** *(75% of Zoned Population)*	1,103 *(BCHS building 4)*	67% *(BCHS building 4)*
Bay Point MS	482	1,322	36%	764 *(Combined K-5 and 6-8 2026-27 enrollment)*	1,274 *(Capacity of K-8)*	60%
Tyrone MS	681	1,130	60%	911** *(75% of Zoned Population)*	1,130	81%

**2026-27 Enrollment as of the 10-day count (August 24, 2026). **Projected enrollment for boundary changes anticipates 75% market share of the zoned population, as noted.*

FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT

Capital Investment: Estimated $500K in one-time expenses to support safety and security needs to separate the Boca Ciega High campus into two schools.

Building 4 on the current Boca Ciega High campus has sufficient classroom capacity to support the middle school program. Updates to classrooms for lab and practical space may be needed once pathways are identified. While some classroom modifications may be needed to create specialized laboratory and hands-on learning spaces, these improvements can be phased in over time and may present opportunities for partnerships and sponsorships with industry and community organizations.

***See Azalea ES recommendation for one-time capital investment for the current Azalea MS campus to become a K-8 facility.*

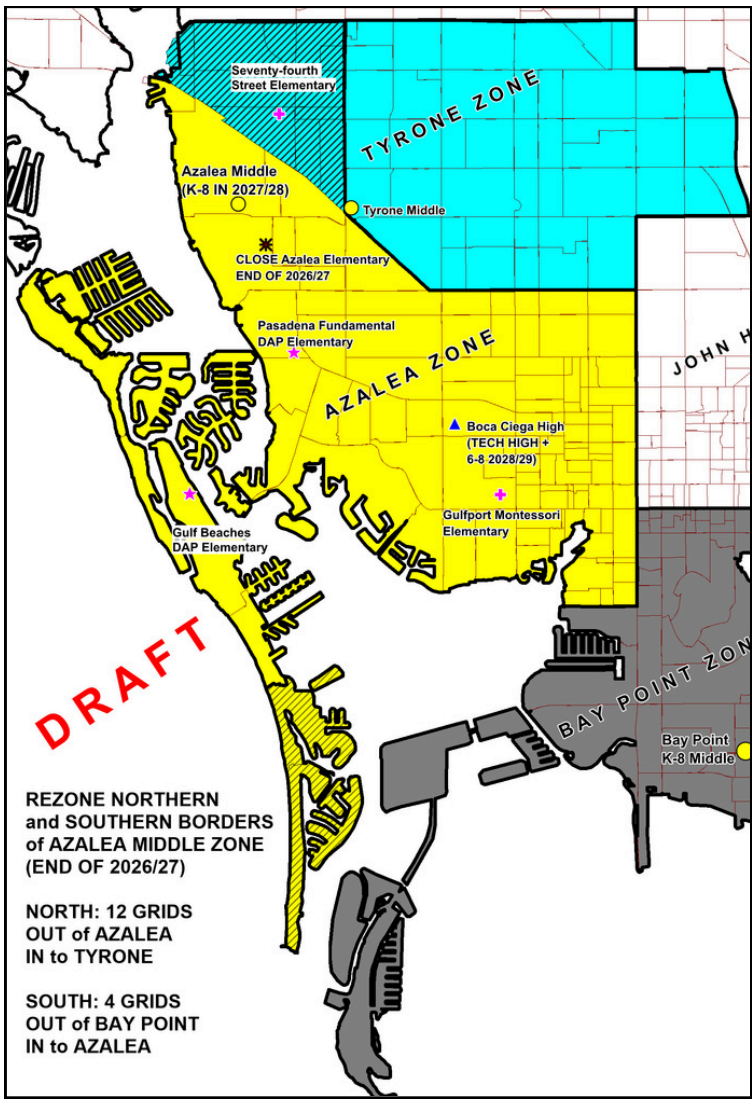
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Relocating the school creates opportunities to develop technical program pathways and share resources between the middle and high schools while maintaining a unique identity and clear separation as a dedicated middle school campus. During the planning year, Azalea Middle and the technical high school at Boca Ciega will work together to identify and develop career and technical education pathways that align across middle and high school grade levels, creating a more seamless progression for students.

In addition, the medical pathway currently offered at Bay Point Middle will move to the new Azalea Middle School location, creating stronger alignment with Boca Ciega High's Center for Wellness and Medical Professions and establishing a clearer feeder pattern for students interested in pursuing medical and healthcare careers. This transition will provide students with expanded access to specialized academic opportunities, stronger connections to career-focused programs, and a well-defined pathway from middle school through high school and beyond.

While most of the current attendance zone will remain unchanged, students who live on the northwest side of Tyrone Boulevard will be rezoned to attend Tyrone Middle School. Additionally, a small portion of the current Bay Point Middle boundary will be rezoned to the Azalea Middle boundary.

The school community will engage in a renaming process prior to the move to the new campus.



Currently enrolled students affected by a school zone boundary change, not due to the closure of their current school, may choose to remain at their current school through Special Assignment Request; however, transportation will not be provided.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

POLICY 2250: FUNDAMENTAL AND MAGNET SCHOOLS

A medical pathway will be added to the Azalea Middle District Application Program (DAP) choice process for the 2028-29 School year.

POLICY 5120: ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT

This recommendation will rezone 16 grids and 229 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 Meeting #1 Recommendation Overview:** Wednesday, September 16, 2026; 5:30 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 site.
  - Individualized school choice support will be on-site at the school for families interested in additional options for the 2027-28 school year.

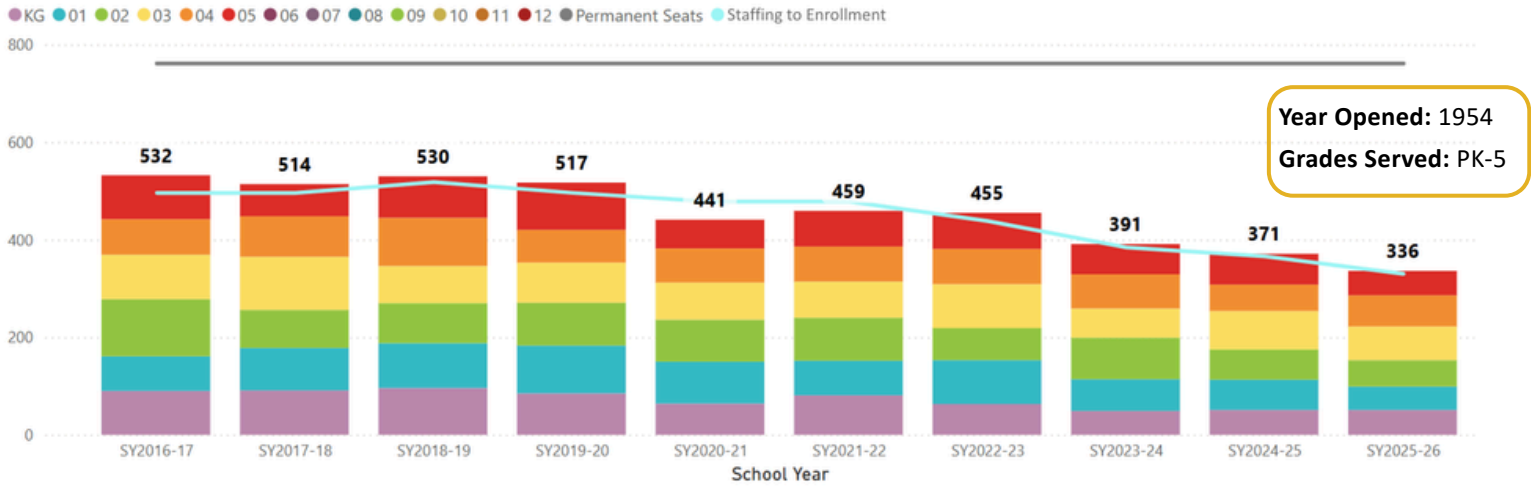
To learn more about any district recommendation, visit www.pcsb.org/progress.

RECOMMENDATION: TRANSITION AZALEA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO A K-8 WITH AN EXPANDED ZONE AND RELOCATE THE CAMPUS

This recommendation **transitions Azalea Elementary School (AES) to a K-8 school with an expanded zone for the 2027-28 school year and relocates the campus for the 2028-29 school year.** Annually, all students who attend grade 5 at Azalea Elementary will have the opportunity to continue in the K-8 program through 8th grade. Current Azalea Elementary fifth graders will be able to attend grade 6 at Azalea K-8 beginning in 2027-28. The transition to a K-8 school will occur over three years, adding grade 6 in 2027-28, grade 7 in 2028-29, and grade 8 in 2029-30. The Azalea K-8 school will be a zoned school, and the district's standard Special Assignment Request admission procedures will apply to students who do not reside in the Azalea Elementary zone. The current full-time Exceptional Student Education (ESE) program at Azalea Elementary will remain at Azalea K-8. The new Azalea K-8 will relocate to the current Azalea Middle campus in 2028-29. Transportation may be provided in alignment with School Board policy.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND HISTORY

TABLE 2: AZALEA ELEMENTARY 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: PROJECTED ENROLLMENT AND CAPACITY

	2026-27 ENROLLMENT*	PERMANENT CAPACITY	UTILIZATION	PROJECTED ENROLLMENT**	PROJECTED CAPACITY	PROJECTED UTILIZATION
Azalea ES	337	761	44%	664 *(75% of K8 Zoned Population)*	1,202 *(Middle School/K-8 Campus)*	55% *(Middle School/K-8 Campus)*
74th Street ES	376	613	61%	341	613	56%

**2026-27 Enrollment as of the 10-day count (August 24, 2026). **Projected enrollment anticipates 75% market share of the zoned population.*

FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

RECENT FACILITIES MAINTENANCE - ELEMENTARY CAMPUS

PROJECT	YEAR	INVESTMENT COST
HVAC	2020	$120k
Exterior Painting	2021	$279k
PE Restrooms	2023	$50k
Water Lines	2025	$266k
Roof	2025	$2.9M

RECENT FACILITIES MAINTENANCE - MIDDLE CAMPUS

PROJECT	YEAR	INVESTMENT COST
Building Envelope	2011	$8.1M
HVAC	2019	$439k
Alarm/Communication Systems	2023	$211k

ESTIMATED FACILITIES INVESTMENT - ELEMENTARY CAMPUS

Azalea Elementary is scheduled for HVAC investment during the 2026-27 school year with an estimated cost of $210k. Additionally, the building has ~$1.6 million in capital improvement needs (e.g., playground, interior paint, flooring, fire alarm) in the coming years.

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT

Operational Savings:
$1.2M annually beginning in 2028-29

ESTIMATED FACILITIES INVESTMENT - MIDDLE CAMPUS

The current Azalea Middle campus is scheduled for exterior painting during the 2026-27 school year with an estimated cost of $612K. Additionally, the building has ~$5 million in capital improvement investments (e.g., roof, elevator, flooring, fire alarm) planned in the upcoming years.

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT

Capital Investment:
Estimate $3 million in one-time expenses to transition first floor of the school to meet needs of elementary school-aged students.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND PROGRAM OFFERINGS

This recommendation transitions Azalea Elementary to a K-8 school, similar to the successful expansion model used at Oldsmar and Walsingham Oaks K-8 schools.

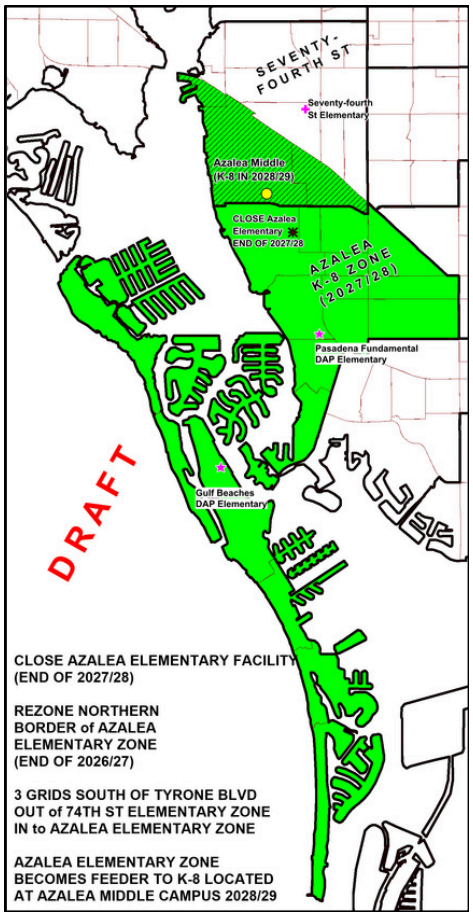
To support a smooth implementation, the K-8 model will be phased in over three years, adding grade 6 in 2027-28, grade 7 in 2028-29, and grade 8 in 2029-30.

The Azalea K-8 school will be a zoned school. The zone will include the current Azalea Elementary zone and will expand north to Tyrone Boulevard, allowing more students in the surrounding community to attend the new K-8 school. Students who attend grade 5 at Azalea K-8 will have the opportunity to continue in the K-8 program through 8th grade. Current Azalea Elementary fifth graders will be able to attend grade 6 at Azalea K-8 beginning in 2027-28.

Each year during the school choice process, students who do not live within the zone may apply to attend Azalea K-8 through the district's standard Special Assignment Request process. The district's policies will apply to students who do not reside in the Azalea Elementary zone.

The new Azalea K-8 will relocate to the current Azalea Middle campus beginning in the 2028-29 school year.

This phased expansion mirrors the approach used at Oldsmar Elementary, allowing the school community to grow gradually while maintaining continuity for students and families. The transition will provide families with a stable K-8 option, reduce student transitions, and create opportunities for stronger academic and extracurricular alignment across grade levels.



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

POLICY 2250: FUNDAMENTAL AND MAGNET SCHOOLS

No amendments/changes needed as a result of this recommendation.

POLICY 5120: ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT

This recommendation will rezone 3 grids and impact 80 students.

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 Meeting Recommendation Overview:** Wednesday, September 16, 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 site.
  - Individualized school choice support will be on-site at the school for families interested in additional options for the 2027-28 school year.

To learn more about any district recommendation, visit www.pcsb.org/progress.

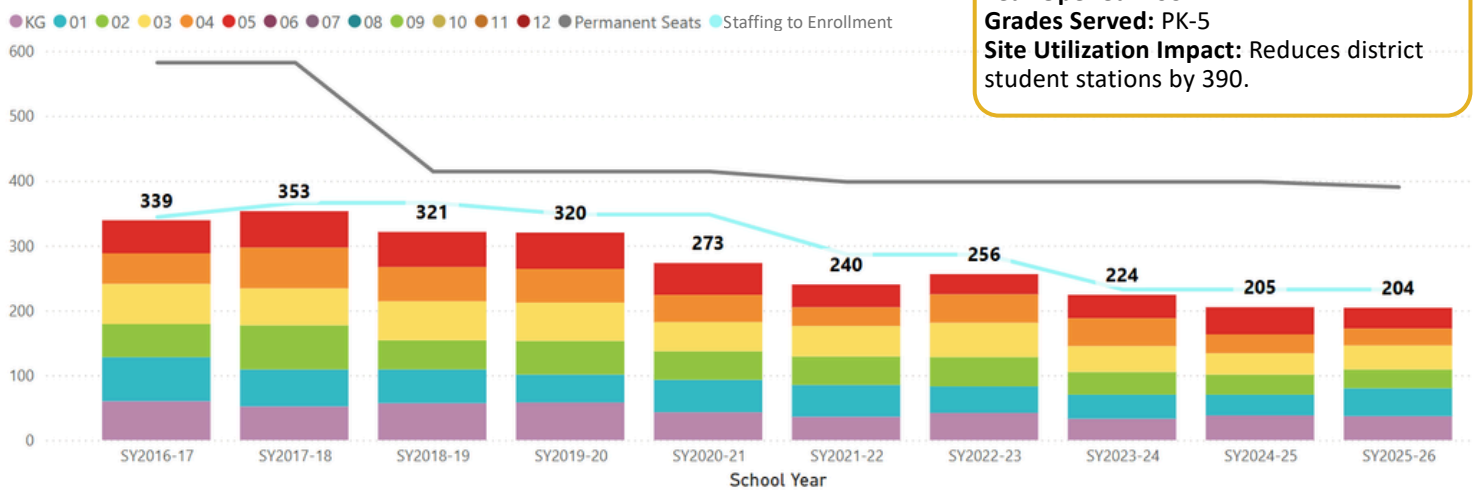
RECOMMENDATION: CLOSE BEAR CREEK ELEMENTARY

This recommendation **closes Bear Creek Elementary School (BCES) at the end of the 2026-27 school year.** Bear Creek Elementary currently serves 189 students in grades K-5, 28 PreK students, and approximately 29 students in a full-time Exceptional Student Education (ESE) program. 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.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND HISTORY

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.

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.*

Bear Creek Elementary is located less than three miles from both Gulfport Montessori Elementary and Fairmount Park Elementary. The rezoning of school boundaries will increase utilization at both receiving schools.

FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

RECENT FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

PROJECT	YEAR	INVESTMENT COST
HVAC	2016	$125k
Lighting/Ceilings	2019	$798k
PE Restrooms	2023	$91k
Plumbing	2024	$195k

ESTIMATED FACILITIES INVESTMENT

Bear Creek Elementary has ~$1.5 million in capital improvement investments (e.g., playground, interior/exterior painting, flooring, fire alarm) needed in the upcoming years.

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT

Total Savings: $3.2M/year
Personnel: $2.9M/year
Operational: $355K/year

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND PROGRAM OFFERINGS

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. Students at Bear Creek Elementary will be rezoned to Gulfport Montessori Elementary and Fairmount Park Elementary. The ESE program will transition to Gulfport Montessori Elementary.

TABLE 3: SCHOOL GRADES OF RECEIVING SCHOOLS

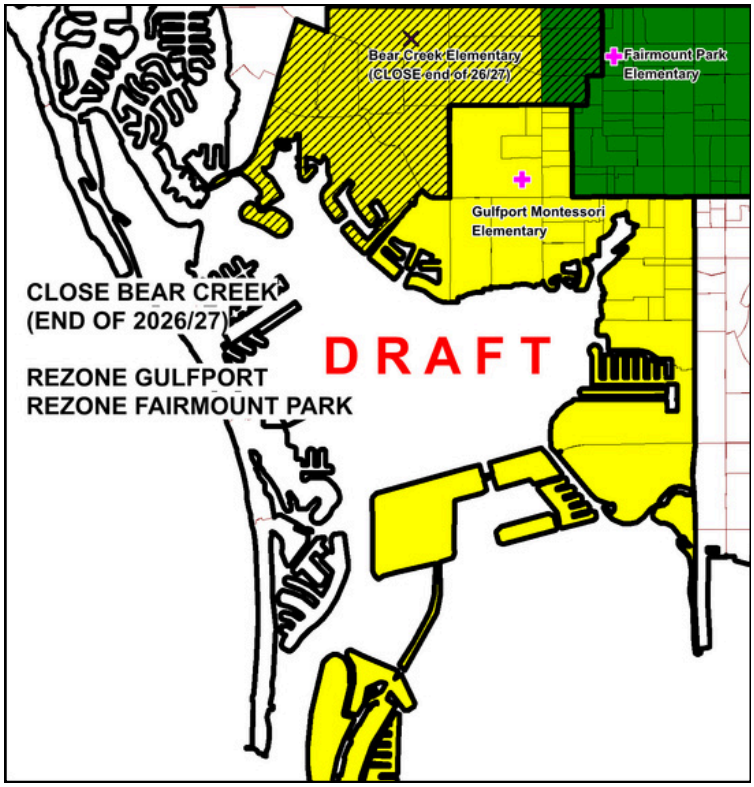
BCES STUDENTS REZONED TO:	2025-26 SCHOOL GRADE
Fairmount Park ES	B
Gulfport Montessori ES	A

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.



POLICY IMPLICATIONS (FIRST READING ON 10/13/26; SECOND READING ON 11/20/26)

POLICY 2250: FUNDAMENTAL AND MAGNET SCHOOLS

No amendments/changes needed as a result of this recommendation.

POLICY 5120: ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT

This recommendation will rezone 14 grids and 370 students who live within the grids.

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 Meeting #1 Recommendation Overview:** Monday, September 21, 2026; 6 p.m.
- **Family and Community Meeting #2:** Wednesday, October 7, 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.

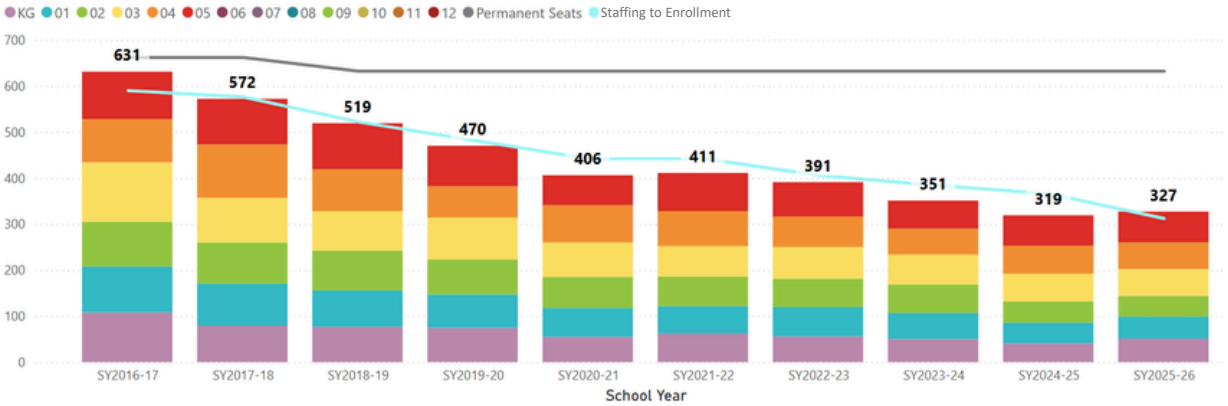
To learn more about any district recommendation, visit www.pcsb.org/progress.

RECOMMENDATION: CLOSE JOHN M. SEXTON ELEMENTARY

This recommendation **closes John M. Sexton Elementary School (SES) at the end of the 2026-27 school year.** Sexton Elementary currently serves 298 students in grades K-5 and 16 students in a full-time Exceptional Student Education (ESE) program. The current Sexton Elementary zone will be rezoned to Lynch and Woodlawn elementary schools. Students who live in the current Sexton Elementary zone will be assigned to these schools based on their home address, with 46th Avenue serving as the boundary line. The ESE program will transition to the new fundamental elementary school at Pinellas Park. Transportation may be provided in alignment with School Board policy.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND HISTORY

TABLE 1: SEXTON ELEMENTARY CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT



Year Opened: 1997

Grades Served: PK-5

Site Utilization Impact: Decreases district student stations by 632

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: CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT FOR IMPACTED SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	2026-27* ENROLLMENT	PERMANENT CAPACITY	UTILIZATION	PROJECTED ENROLLMENT**	PROJECTED UTITLIZATION
Sexton ES	298	632	47%		
Lynch ES	339	751	45%	433	58%
Woodlawn ES	147	578	25%	268	46%

**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.*

Students living north of 46th Avenue will be zoned for Lynch Elementary and those who live south of 46th Avenue will be zoned for Woodlawn Elementary. The elementary school boundary between Lynch and Sawgrass Lake elementary schools will also be adjusted slightly to best balance student enrollment across schools in the area.

FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

RECENT FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

Since 2020, Sexton Elementary has received $906K in facility improvements and maintenance, including flooring, entrance, and PE restrooms.

ESTIMATED FACILITIES INVESTMENT

Sexton Elementary has $2.1 million in capital improvement investments (e.g., HVAC, roof, elevator) scheduled in the upcoming years.

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT

Total Savings: $4.1M/year

Personnel: $3.6M/year

Operational: $568K/year

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Sexton Elementary earned an A school grade in 2025-26. The recommendation for closure and rezoning is driven by districtwide enrollment trends, facility utilization, and the need to align resources to best serve students across the district.

TABLE 3: SCHOOL GRADES OF RECEIVING SCHOOLS

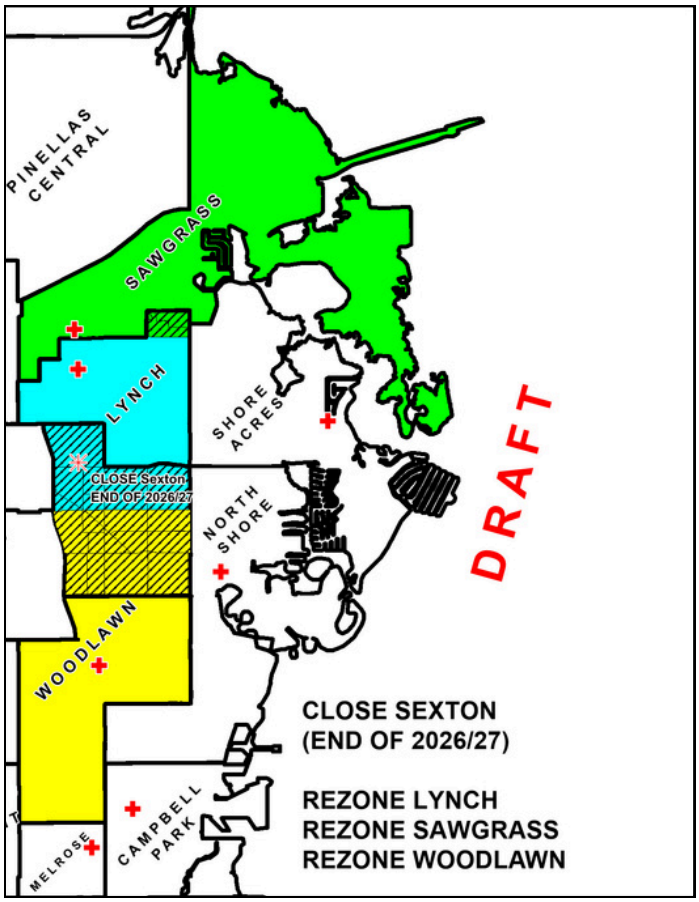
SEXTON ES STUDENTS REZONED TO:	2025-26 SCHOOL GRADE
Lynch ES	A
Woodlawn ES	A

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

TABLE 4: NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY ZONE

SEXTON ES STUDENTS REZONED TO:	CURRENTLY ENROLLED SEXTON ES (2025-26)*	TOTAL ZONED SEXTON ES (2025-26)#
Lynch ES	94	158
Woodlawn ES	121	246

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



POLICY IMPLICATIONS (FIRST READING ON 10/13/26; SECOND READING ON 11/20/26)

POLICY 2250: FUNDAMENTAL AND MAGNET SCHOOLS

No amendments/changes needed as a result of this recommendation.

POLICY 5120: ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT

This recommendation will rezone 22 grids and 404 students who live within the boundaries.

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 Meeting #1 Recommendation Overview:** Tuesday, September 15, 2026; 6 p.m.
- **Family and Community Meeting #2:** Monday, October 12, 2026; 6 p.m.

To learn more about any district recommendation, visit www.pcsb.org/progress.

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 or 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.

RECOMMENDATION: CLOSE LEALMAN INNOVATION ACADEMY

This recommendation **closes Lealman Innovation Academy at the end of the 2026-27 school year.** Current students will receive individualized consultation to identify supports at the appropriate middle or high schools. Educational Alternative Services (EAS) will assign resources to the appropriate South County schools to directly support students in the programs. The closed Lealman Innovation Academy property will be leased to Feeding Tampa Bay.

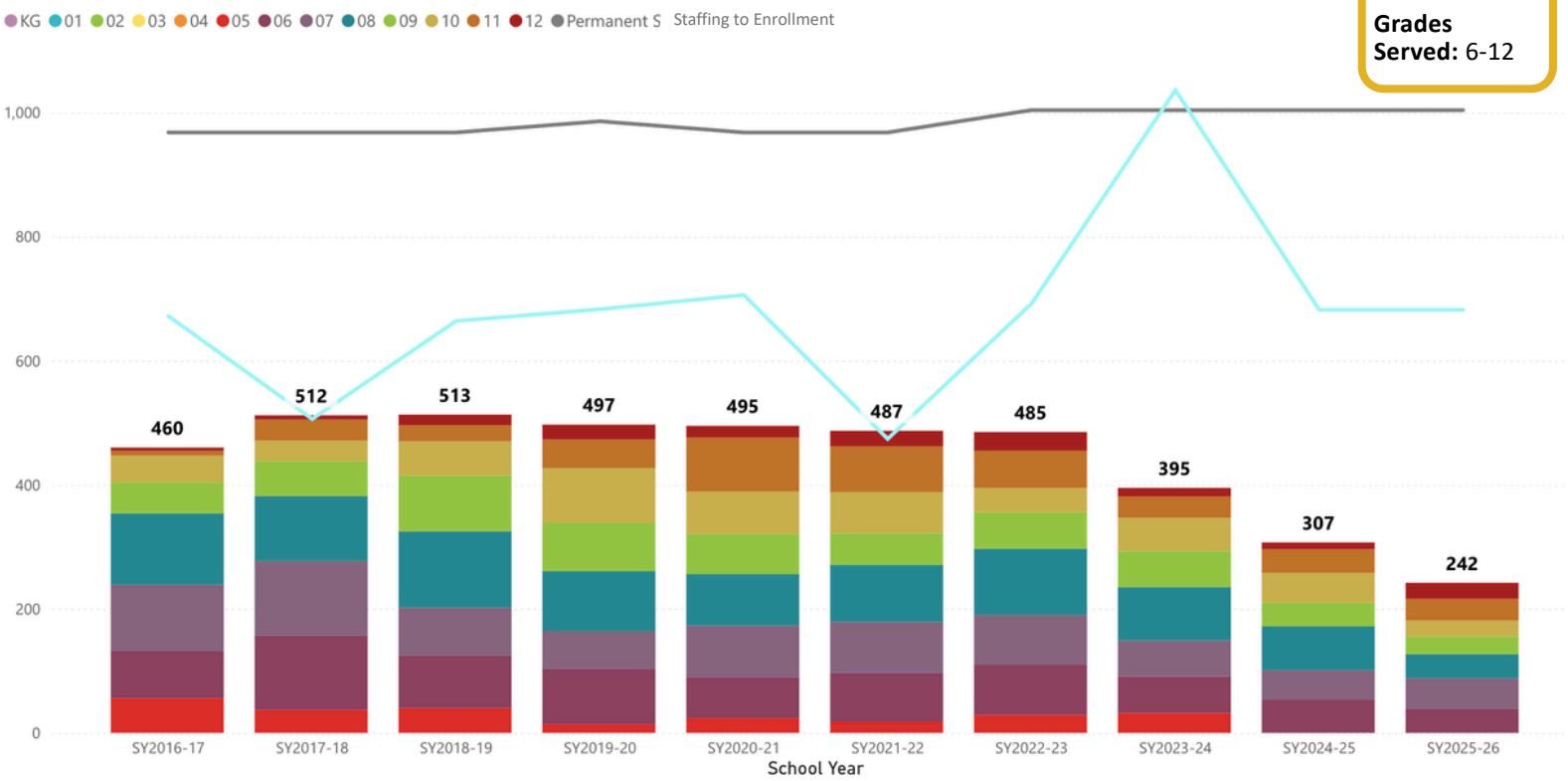
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND HISTORY

Lealman Innovation Academy has an enrollment of 201 students in grades 6-12, with a building capacity of 1,004 student stations. Current building utilization is 20%.

Year Opened: 2005

Grades Served: 6-12

TABLE 1: LEALMAN INNOVATION ACADEMY 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.

LEALMAN INNOVATION ACADEMY	
2026-27 Enrollment As of the 10-day count (August 24, 2026)	201
Permanent Capacity	1,004
Utilization	20%

FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

RECENT FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

PROJECT	YEAR	INVESTMENT COST
Track	2017	$294k
HVAC	2022	$603k
Building Envelope	2025	$686k

ESTIMATED FACILITIES INVESTMENT

Lealman Innovation Academy has $2.6 million in capital improvement investments (e.g., roof, elevator, exterior paint, fire alarm) planned in the upcoming years.

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT

Total Savings: $3.9M/year

Personnel: $3.4M/year

Operational: $532K/year

Capital Investment: The recommendation is to lease the property as-is to Feeding Tampa Bay.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Lealman Innovation Academy serves students who need accelerated learning to meet graduation requirements. The program has earned a school improvement rating of 'Maintaining' since the 2021-22 school year. The district has the capacity to serve all students currently enrolled at Lealman Innovation Academy at traditional high schools, either through established on-site Educational Alternative Services (EAS) programs or at a designated EAS site located in Mid County. Transportation may be provided in accordance with School Board policy.

DISTRICT EAS PROGRAMS	2025-26 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT RATING	LOCATION
Bayside HS	Commendable	Largo/Clearwater
Pinellas High Innovation	Commendable	Clearwater

All high schools have on-site EAS program supports.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

POLICY 2250: FUNDAMENTAL AND MAGNET SCHOOLS

No amendments/changes needed as a result of this recommendation.

POLICY 5120: ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT

No amendments/changes needed as a result of this recommendation.

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 Meeting #1 Recommendation Overview:** Wednesday, September 16, 2026; 3 p.m.
- **Family and Community Meeting #2:** Thursday, October 8, 2026; 3 p.m.

To learn more about any district recommendation, visit www.pcsb.org/progress.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Meet with faculty and staff members who may have specific questions regarding the recommendation and how it may impact them individually.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Current students will receive individualized consultation to identify supports at the appropriate middle or high schools.

ADDITIONAL ZONE ADJUSTMENTS

The elementary school zone boundaries for Lynch and Sawgrass Lake elementary schools will be adjusted slightly to best balance student enrollment across schools in the area. Based on the 2025-26 school grade rules, Lynch and Sawgrass Lake elementary schools are estimated to maintain the current school grades. Currently enrolled students affected by a school zone boundary change, not due to the closure of their current school, may choose to remain at their current school through Special Assignment Request; however, transportation will not be provided.

TABLE 1: CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT FOR IMPACTED SCHOOLS

	2026-27 ENROLLMENT*	PERMANENT CAPACITY	UTILIZATION	PROJECTED ENROLLMENT**	PROJECTED UTILIZATION
Lynch ES	339	751	45%	497	66%
Sawgrass Lake ES	441	799	55%	380	48%

**2026-27 Enrollment as of the 10-day count (August 24, 2026). **Projected enrollment for boundary changes anticipates 75% market share of the zoned population. Note that the projected enrollment and utilization at these schools represent the rezoning of students from school closures elsewhere in this packet and the boundary changes on this page.*

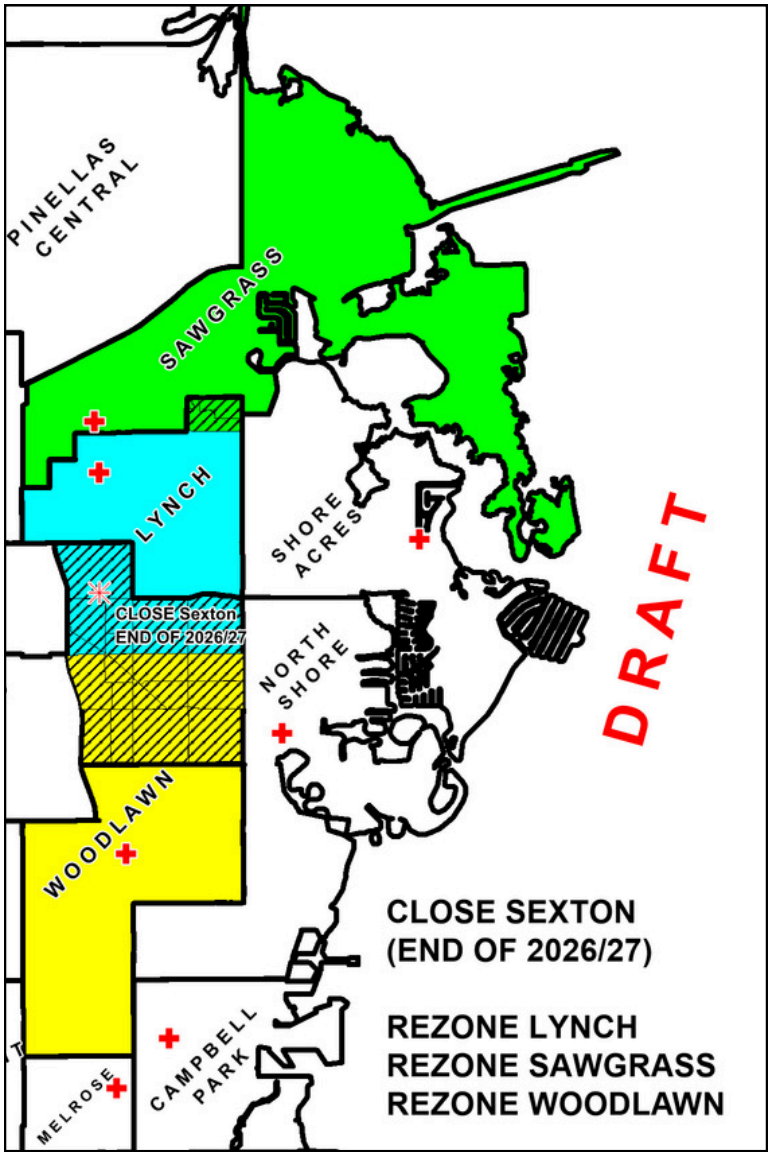
TABLE 2: SCHOOL GRADES OF IMPACTED SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	2025-26 SCHOOL GRADE
Lynch ES	A
Sawgrass Lakes ES	A

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

TABLE 3: NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN EACH SCHOOL ZONE

	CURRENTLY ZONED	PROJECTED ZONED
Lynch ES	524	662
Sawgrass Lakes ES	486	506



POLICY IMPLICATIONS

(FIRST READING ON 10/13/26; SECOND READING ON 11/20/26)

POLICY 2250: FUNDAMENTAL AND MAGNET SCHOOLS

No amendments/changes needed as a result of this recommendation.

POLICY 5120: ASSIGNMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT

This recommendation rezones 2 grids and 20 students who live within the grids.

NEXT STEPS

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.
  - Families interested in additional options for the 2027-28 school year can engage in the choice process during the District Application Program and Special Assignment Request windows.

To learn more about any district recommendation, visit www.pcsb.org/progress.