





pcs
PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS









2025-2026
DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

THANK YOU FOR MAKING US AN A DISTRICT

WHO WE ARE

SCHOOL BOARD



KEVIN HENDRICK
Superintendent



CAPRICE EDMOND
Chairperson



DAWN PETERS
Vice Chairperson



KATIE BLAXBERG



LISA N. CANE



LAURA HINE



EILEEN M. LONG



STEPHANIE MEYER

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Academic Excellence Through Innovation
- Safe & Respectful Climate & Culture
- Equity With Excellence For All
- Positive Staff Experiences
- Strong Connections & Communication
- Fiscal & Operational Responsibility

FAST FACTS

A DISTRICT
FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW

92% A & B RATED SCHOOLS
IN PINELLAS COUNTY

HOME TO A TOTAL OF
83,634 PK-12 STUDENTS

141 SCHOOLS
DISTRICTWIDE

10TH LARGEST
FLORIDA SCHOOL DISTRICT

THE LARGEST EMPLOYER
IN PINELLAS COUNTY

CORE VALUES



WHO WE ARE

FUNDING

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

73% Local

20% State

7% Federal

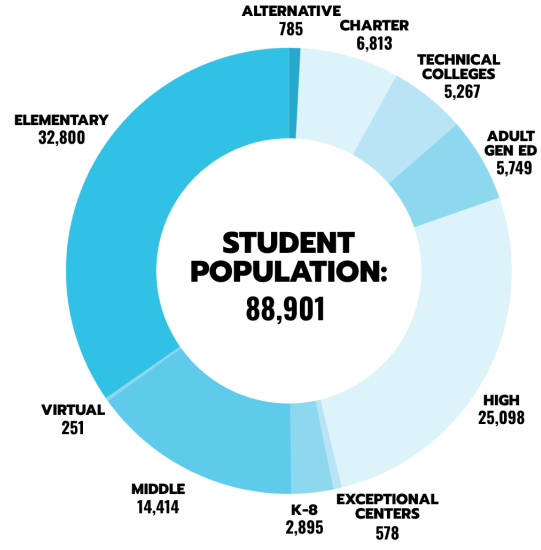
WHERE THE MONEY GOES

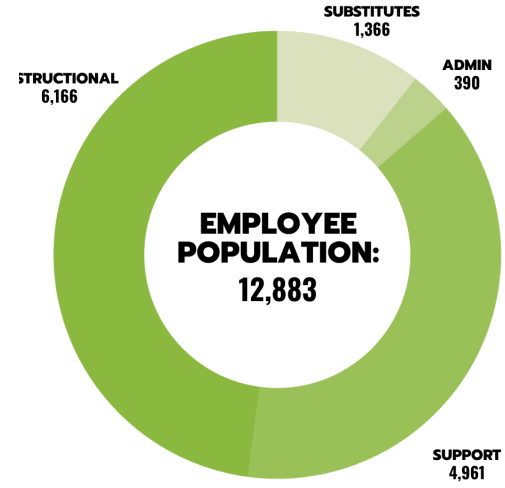
81% supporting students & schools

14% operating & maintaining facilities

5% management of district operations

POPULATION





MAGNET PROGRAMS

- ARCHITECTURE
- ARTS CONSERVATORY
- BUSINESS
- CULINARY
- DUAL LANGUAGE
- ENGINEERING
- FUNDAMENTAL
- GIFTED
- HEALTH/MEDICAL
- STEM

EARLY SUCCESS

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

53% PCS

44% State

THIRD GRADE READING

70% PCS

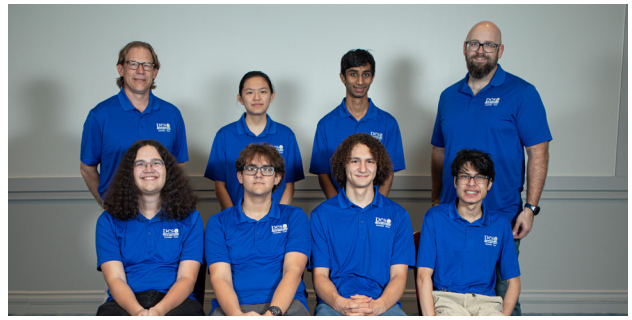
62% State

POINTS OF PRIDE: STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS





PCS students **earned eight top-10 honors** at the Future Business Leaders of America National Competition, and **more than 70 students placed in the top five** at the state competition.



The Pinellas County Academic Team **earned the Division 1 title for the second consecutive year** with a decisive 55 point margin over the runner up.



David Merchado, Safety Harbor Middle, placed **third in the inaugural regional Civics Bee** and advanced to the national competition.



The Northeast High Women's JROTC Raider Team placed **second in the nation at the JROTC National Raider Challenge**.



Arianna Antoniou, East Lake High, became the school's **first female wrestler to win a state championship**.



Pinellas Park High First Responders Program **earned statewide recognition as Top Fire Fighting Chapter by Florida Public Service Association** (FPSA).



PCS students **earned more first-, second-, and third-place awards than any district** at the 2026 Florida History Day State Competition.



Eight Pinellas County Schools students traveled to New York City to be recognized among the nation's most accomplished young artists at the **2026 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards National Ceremony**.



Laiana McClinton, Largo High, **defended her state title in the Division 4A 100-meter** at the 2026 Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) State Championship.

POINTS OF PRIDE: STAFF ACCOLADES



East Lake Middle was named a **2026 Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School**, recognizing high performance across leadership, student achievement, and continuous improvement.

MAGNET SCHOOLS OF AMERICA

27 Pinellas schools won **National Merit Awards** from Magnet Schools of America (MSA):

TOP MAGNET SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE:

- Ridgecrest Elementary

MERIT AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:

- Hollins High
- Douglas L. Jamerson, Jr. Elementary
- East Lake High
- Garrison-Jones Elementary
- Jonathan C. Gibbs High
- Kings Highway Elementary
- Lakewood High
- Midtown Academy
- Safety Harbor Middle

MERIT AWARD OF DISTINCTION:

- Bay Point Middle
- Boca Ciega High
- Countryside High
- Dunedin Highland Middle
- East Lake Middle
- Elisa Nelson Elementary
- James B. Sanderlin K-8
- John Hopkins Middle
- Largo Middle
- McMullen Booth Elementary
- Mildred Helms Elementary
- Palm Harbor University
- Perkins Elementary
- Sandy Lane Elementary
- Tarpon Springs High
- Tarpon Springs Middle
- Thurgood Marshall Fundamental



Olivia Ursch, Morgan Fitzgerald Middle, **Florida Educators of Family and Consumer Sciences (FEFACS) Rookie Teacher of the Year**.



Dr. Judith Deeley, Dunedin High, **Manufacturing Secondary Educator of the Year** by Florida Advanced Technological Education Center (FLATE).



PCS won **three Sunshine State School Public Relations Association Awards**, Gold for the Superintendent's Instagram, website, and the Annual Report.



Michael McCullough was named **FACTE President-Elect** and retired educator Steve Plummer was inducted into the **FACTE Hall of Fame**.



The PCS Employee Child Care program earned **Cognia Accreditation with Merit Status**.



Stephanie Hornick, Middle School Science Specialist, honored by the University of South Florida with the **Emerging Alumni Award**.

PRIORITY 1: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION

COLLEGE & CAREER: HIGH EXPECTATIONS



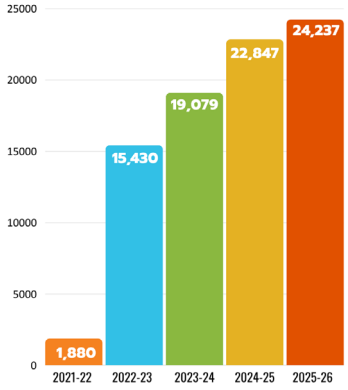
COLLEGE & CAREER: HIGH EXPECTATIONS

COLLEGE READINESS



93.4%
GRADUATION RATE

COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER VISITS



DUAL ENROLLMENT SAVINGS

PCS high school students saved **$15.4 million** in college tuition by **completing nearly 25,000 college courses** and **earning more than 74,700 college credits** while in high school.



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

More than **1,850 seniors qualified for Florida Bright Futures Scholarships**:

- Florida Academic Scholarship: 607
- Florida Medallion Scholarship: 893
- Gold Seal Cape Scholarship: 360





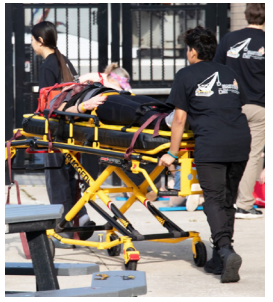
The Pinellas Education Foundation **awarded more than $875,000 in scholarships ranging from $500 to $20,000** to more than 300 PCS students recognizing them for college preparation, pursuing careers in education and for artistic achievement.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Graduating seniors earned **more than 1,550 industry certifications** during the 2025–26 school year, a 9% increase over the prior year. Students have access to **190+ industry certification courses across 17 high schools**, preparing them with skills that align with today's workforce. Pinellas Technical College provided **1,470 unique apprenticeships, withing its 63 programs on two campuses** during the 2025–26 school year.





College Board selected **20 PCS students as National Merit Scholars**. The scholarship program is one of the most competitive academic recognition programs in the U.S. **Less than 1% of seniors in each state become Semifinalists**, and about 15,000 advance to Finalists.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

STUDENT EXPERIENCE





FASTEST FRESHMAN

Kylen Monk, Largo High School, **2026 FHSAA 4A 200-meter dash State Champion**. His time of 20.91 ranks 1st among freshmen in the US and 2nd all-time among freshmen in the event.







CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY LAW DAY

Pinellas Park High students participated in simulated careers in public service that **connected classroom learning to real-world opportunities**.



3DE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Dunedin High School students **won The Home Depot National 3DE Challenge, outperforming teams from more than 80 schools nationwide**. Their winning concept, The Orange Zone, creates a dedicated space where customers test paint products and receive DIY painting support.





GAMING WITH PURPOSE

The **district launched an Esports program** that combines fun with purpose. Featuring Nintendo games and chess, **these structured tournaments promote safe, competitive play while developing leadership, teamwork, and career-ready skills** that support district initiatives in digital responsibility, AI literacy, and workforce readiness.









FIELD TRIPS

More than **33,000 students experienced nearly 300 field trips** to college campuses, museums, aquariums, theaters, and career day events.









MIGHTY MU

Palm Harbor University's Mu Alpha Theta chapter hosted the 28th Annual Mighty Mu Math Competition, welcoming nearly **470 students in grades 4–8** from 28 Pinellas schools. Through individual and team events, the long-standing competition **fosters problem-solving, teamwork, and a love of math**.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE



STEM DAY AT ST. PETE GRAND PRIX

Middle school students explored real-world STEM careers with exclusive **behind-the-scenes access at the St. Pete Grand Prix**.



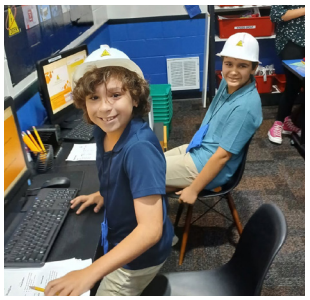






STUDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Student leaders in all grade levels spent the day **growing their leadership skills, collaborating with peers, and transforming creative ideas into plans to make a real impact at their schools**.







ENTERPRISE VILLAGE

All fifth graders participate in Enterprise Village, immersive field trips **with 42 local business partners.** Students run a simulated town, building essential economic skills that connect classroom learning to life.



MOBILE STEM LAB

The school bus-turned-mobile STEM lab brought **hands-on STEM, robotics, physics, and engineering to 7th graders at every middle school.**









SUMMER CAMPS

The 2026 Summer Enrichment Camps expanded opportunities for student exploration and real-world skill development, **growing 53% to a total of 89 camps**. New offerings increased variety and innovation, including fashion art, basic auto service, Girls Advancing Literacy (GALS), music programs, museum experiences, and sport-specific camps.

GIRLS TENNIS CHAMP



Freddee Hendricks, Seminole High, won the **Florida High School Athletic Association 2A Girls Tennis championship** and 2nd overall.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE





MATH MANIA

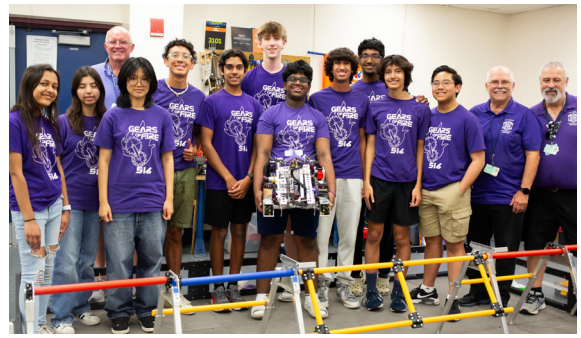
The district's Math Mania competition **engaged 228 fourth-grade students** in a fun and interactive experience designed to strengthen foundational math skills.





BALL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

In partnership with the Tampa Bay Lightning, PCS Ball Hockey continues to grow, engaging students through PE classes and culminating in the 3rd Annual Tournament. **Participation more than doubled, with increased involvement from elementary and middle schools**. Forest Lakes won top Pinellas elementary school and Carwise Middle took home first place.



PCS ROBOTICS PROGRAM

PCS FIRST Robotics spans elementary through high school, with **68 teams—more than any other district in Florida**. Students of all ages design, build, and compete, gaining hands-on STEM experience and skills that prepare them for future careers in innovation and technology.



DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Alessandro De Bernardo and James Mellinger, Osceola High School, won the **Boys' 3A State Doubles Championship**.





SKILLSUSA COMPETITION

SkillsUSA Florida State Leadership and Skills competition **awarded 164 students with 62 statewide honors**.





FUTURE CITIES COMPETITION

The middle school Future Cities challenge sparks innovation as **students design real-world solutions to reduce food waste from farm to table**.





PRESCHOOL EARLY LITERACY INDICATORS

PCS increased the number of Pinellas Early Literacy Initiative (PELI) schools from **18 to 24 (a 33% increase)**, with 82.6% of teachers either working towards or having already earned their reading endorsement.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE: ARTS



WARHAWK MARCHING BAND

The Seminole High Warhawks marching band made history as the **first band in Florida to win both the Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit and the Florida Marching Band Championships Class 4A State titles in the same year**, also earning **Grand Champion** and **Festival Award honors** at the WorldStrides Heritage Music Festival in Washington, D.C.



OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLE

The Tarpon Springs High School Outdoor Performance Ensemble was the **2025 BOA Orlando Regional Overall Grand Champion**, while the Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony **performed at Carnegie Hall** as two of only four ensembles nationwide invited to the New York Invitational Music Festival.

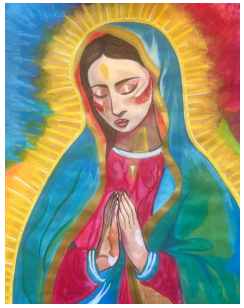
AWARD WINNING ARTWORK



FAEA 2026 FSAA High School Award: From a Notebook in Cuba… to Canvas in the USA by Analia Lleonart Dumenigo, 10th grade, St. Pete High



FAEA 2026 Best in Show: Self-Examination by Eva Aadil, 10th grade, Palm Harbor University High



2026 13th Congressional District of Florida High School Art Exhibition Best in Show: "The Virgin," by Valeria Flores-Gonzalez, Boca Ciega High









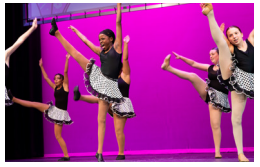
RISING STARS

Talented students participated in a transformative year-long journey with multiple rounds of professional judging to help them sharpen their audition, portfolio, and performance skills. **Students competed for scholarships in six categories: Culinary, Dance, Instrumental Music, Theater, Visual Arts, and Vocal Performance. Scholarships range from $500 to $5,000 in each category**.



TOP BAND HONORS

East Lake High earned **top honors across band, orchestra, and choir at the national Smoky Mountain Music Festival**. The Symphonic Band and Orchestra each **placed first, the band also earned the highest overall instrumental score**, and the choir placed second.









IGNITE

PCS Performing Arts Ignite continues to expand opportunities for students, evolving from a summer camp into a **dynamic program that includes a youth choir, a New York City theater camp, and a growing Invitational** that now features elementary and secondary students performing together at USF.

SAFE & RESPECTFUL CLIMATE & CULTURE





WELLNESS ROOMS

In partnership with Tampa Bay Thrives, PCS opened the Panther's Den at Pinellas High Innovation, a daily wellness space offering drop-in resources and structured activities such as art, yoga, game days, sound baths, and drum circles. The Den helps **reduce stress, build resilience, and support academic success**. The partnership is expected to expand to additional schools.





STUDENT RESILIENCY

Through community partnerships, PCS expanded student access to unique **mental health resources and experiences, like Strike the Stigma Symposium, Teen Mental Health First Aid, peer mediation training, Hockey Talks, and MindShift for student athletes**, helping students support one another and develop healthy coping skills.







SRO PARTNERSHIP

PCS is **renewing partnerships with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office** and six municipal law enforcement agencies to provide SROs and SRDs, **supporting safety and security across the district**.





SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

Schools promoted a culture of awareness and connection through Say Something Week, **encouraging students to speak up, support one another, and engage with trusted adults**.





SCHOOL SAFETY

The district continued **strengthening campus safety through crisis alert badges, upgraded video systems, and a new threat management platform to proactively identify and prevent risks**.

EQUITY WITH EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

BRIDGING THE GAP

Black student proficiency in ELA and Math has **reached its highest level on record, with growth outpacing other student subgroups**. This accelerated progress reflects the impact of targeted strategies and reinforces the district's commitment to ensuring strong outcomes for every student.









YES, I CAN! AWARDS

The Yes, I Can! Awards honored 60 ESE students for outstanding achievements in **academics, independent living, self-advocacy, technology, athletics, and the arts**.






STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Among all student groups, Black students and students with disabilities showed **the most improvement in ELA proficiency**, increasing by at least four percentage points each.





HIGH ACHIEVING STUDENTS

Community organizations hosted the Vyrle Davis, Joseph L. Carwise, and Maria Edmonds Awards, **honoring more than 650 top-achieving Black and Hispanic scholars**.



SUMMER COLLEGE TOURS

PCS provided the opportunity to **visit eight State University System institutions over four days this summer**.





BOYS AND GUYS READ BOOK BATTLE

300 male students represented 78 schools in the Boys and Guys Read book battles. This initiative aims to **narrow the gender gap in reading by engaging boys in books aligned with their interests**.




ALGEBRA BOWL

The Algebra Bowl engaged **310 middle and high school students in a fun, competitive experience to strengthen algebra skills**, and **74% of participants demonstrated proficiency** on the Algebra EOC.

POINTS OF PRIDE: OUTSTANDING STAFF



KATHERINE RICHARDSON
Emerging Teacher of the Year,
High Point Elementary



MADELINE PAYNE
Emerging Teacher of the Year,
Morgan Fitzgerald Middle



ANDREW STIMUS
Safety Officer of the Year Award,
San Jose Elementary



KRISTY JAMES
Principal of the Year,
Ponce De Leon Elementary



BROOKE CRANDALL
Assistant Principal of the Year,
Madeira Beach Fundamental



PATRICK WALTON
Campus Monitor of the Year Award,
Boca Ciega High



CARLOS CHILDS
Support Employee of the Year,
Campbell Park Elementary



KELLY WEBB
MSA Region III Teacher of the Year,
Palm Harbor University High



MAURICE BLOSSOM
Resource Officer of the Year Award,
James B. Sanderlin K-8

PCS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

DENISE WHITE, JAMES B. SANDERLIN K-8





EVENING OF EXCELLENCE

A night to honor the top 10 Teacher of the Year finalists:

- Bobby Coston Jr., Campbell Park Elementary
- Kathleen Earle, Dunedin Highland Middle
- Kira Guyotte, John Hopkins Middle
- Adam Kersey, Palm Harbor University High
- Christine Marr, Shore Acres Elementary
- Brian Minkin, Pinellas Technical College St. Pete
- Jennifer Narkier, Ozona Elementary
- Gina Sciolino, Ponce de Leon Elementary
- Mariangelie Vazquez Llanis, Garrison-Jones Elementary
- Denise White, James B. Sanderlin K-8



POSITIVE STAFF EXPERIENCES



MUSIC EDUCATION AWARDS

Florida Music Education Association (FMEA) **2026 School Board of the Year**, becoming the first-ever entire School Board to be recognized by the FMEA, and named Superintendent Kevin Hendrick its **2026 Superintendent of the Year**.



IMPACT & INNOVATION

Michael Ulbrich, Area 3 General Manager of Operations, honored with the 2025 ChangeMakers: Impact & Innovation Award by the Pinellas Education Foundation for his **transformative leadership** following Hurricanes Milton and Helene.





EMPLOYEE CHILDCARE

112 CHILDREN SERVED → **116** EMPLOYEES SUPPORTED → **50%** OF MARKET-RATE TUITION







TAX REFERENDUM SALARY INCREASES

For the 2025–26 school year, Classroom teachers: **+ $4,114 in salary, 4% average increase**. Support, Professional, Technical, and Supervisory employees: **+$2,910, 7.6% average increase**.



TEACHER SALARY

$58,348, positioning PCS among the most competitive school districts in Florida and **helping attract and retain high-quality educators.**



SCHOOL LUNCH HERO

Jason Brooks, Sandy Lane Food and Nutrition Manager, **2026 Florida School Lunch Hero**, one of only five honored statewide.





TEACHER APPRENTICE PROGRAM

In partnership with St. Petersburg College, the Teacher Apprenticeship Program offers a two-year, tuition-free, mentored pathway into teaching. With **24 graduates and nine new apprentices pursuing degrees** and endorsements in high-need teaching areas, PCS is strengthening its workforce, expanding access to high-quality educators, and supporting student success.

STRONG CONNECTIONS & COMMUNICATION

MENTOR AND VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR



JOHN FRENCH

Take Stock Mentor of the Year,
Richard O. Jacobson Tech High



EMMA REVERON

Youth Volunteer of the Year,
Tarpon Springs Elementary



NICOLE HALSTEAD

Adult Volunteer of the Year,
Mangrove Bay Middle



CINDY PEACOCK

Senior Volunteer of the Year,
Palm Harbor Middle





28,000+
VOLUNTEERS

202,000+
HOURS





$7 MILLION
VALUE ADDED TO PCS

141 SCHOOLS
SUPPORTED

SOCIAL MEDIA GROWTH

Throughout the year, the district strengthened its social media presence by **growing its audience across all platforms, increasing engagement, and expanding the reach** of district news, achievements, and community stories.

+1,313 FOLLOWERS FROM 2024-25	+1,732 FOLLOWERS FROM 2024-25	+1,312 SUBSCRIBERS FROM 2024-25	+1,351 FOLLOWERS FROM 2024-25
1,077,009 ENGAGEMENT	149,840 ENGAGEMENT	19,561 HOURS WATCHED	6,234 ENGAGEMENT

122 Schools on Facebook

87 Schools on Instagram

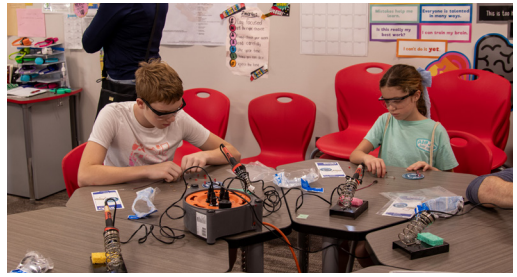
STRONG CONNECTIONS & COMMUNICATION

EXPERIENCE PCS

Nearly **5,000 attendees experienced the 4th annual Experience PCS event**, where award-winning student work, performances, competitive events, and hands-on STEM experiences brought learning to life.





LISTEN & LEARN

The Superintendent and school board hosted community Listen and Learn sessions throughout the year to engage in two-way discussions on specific topics. The sessions **further strengthened the partnership between the district and the community**.









CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARIES

St. Petersburg High School and Midtown Academy celebrated their 100th anniversaries with a **community-wide celebration that brought together alumni, students, families, and supporters** to honor a century of Green Devil and Mustang pride, tradition, and achievement.








FISCAL & OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

TRANSPORTATION

School bus **on-time arrivals increased 72%** since 2022-23.





FOOD & NUTRITION



MEALS SERVED:

4M BREAKFAST

7.8M LUNCH

531K DINNER

TOTAL: 12.5M+

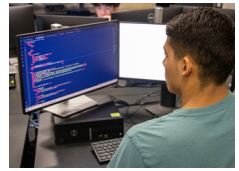
5.33% increase from 24-25

MODERNIZED TECHNOLOGY

PCS launched a streamlined digital platform for enrollment and program applications. The new system **simplifies the processes into one secure system** and includes an express option making it faster to access Magnet, Fundamental, and SAR programs.







PLANNING FOR PROGRESS

Through Planning for Progress, PCS is taking **strategic, data-informed steps to ensure strong, sustainable schools**. Following extensive portfolio review analysis and community engagement, the School Board approved recommendations that **align resources with enrollment trends, strengthen academics, and responsibly steward public funds**.







MAJOR RENOVATIONS



DR. MICHAEL A. GREGO LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE | RIBBON-CUTTING: OCTOBER 2025

$15M new construction leadership institute enhances the growth of professionals within the district and the surrounding community. The institute honors the leadership and vision of the retired PCS superintendent who led its development.



SEMINOLE HIGH SCHOOL | EXPECTED COMPLETION: AUGUST 2027

$57M in new construction, major renovations and remodeling campus-wide, includes new buildings and renovations to improve classroom, safety systems, and central campus facilities like the cafeteria and media center.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

School Board members engaged in coordinated state and national advocacy to **advance legislative priorities and influence policy decisions regarding district funding and operational efficiency**.



STRATEGIC PLAN AT A GLANCE

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION

OBJECTIVE 1: Accelerate innovative learning experiences for all students
OBJECTIVE 2: Expand early literacy initiatives for all students in grades Pre-K through 3
OBJECTIVE 3: Ensure graduates are prepared for workforce and college success
OBJECTIVE 4: Earn a district grade of an A



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: SAFE & RESPECTFUL CLIMATE & CULTURE

OBJECTIVE 5: Build positive, caring cultures of learning in every classroom and school
OBJECTIVE 6: Maintain security of all district campuses

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: EQUITY WITH EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

OBJECTIVE 7: Eliminate gaps in opportunity, access, and achievement for all students
OBJECTIVE 8: Accelerate progress of the district Bridging the Gap plan



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: POSITIVE STAFF EXPERIENCES

OBJECTIVE 9: Attract and retain outstanding faculty and staff
OBJECTIVE 10: Invest in all staff through continuous professional learning

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5: STRONG CONNECTIONS AND COMMUNICATION

OBJECTIVE 11: Deepen authentic engagement with families districtwide
OBJECTIVE 12: Leverage partnerships that support student success
OBJECTIVE 13: Deliver engaging and consistent communications to all stakeholders



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6: FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

OBJECTIVE 14: Successfully transition select strategies funded by ESSER/ARP into standard operations
OBJECTIVE 15: Increase operational efficiency for student transportation
OBJECTIVE 16: Provide state-of-the-art facilities, technology, and resources

PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Caprice Edmond, Chairperson
Dawn Peters, Vice-Chairperson
Katie Blaxberg
Lisa N. Cane
Laura Hine
Eileen M. Long
Stephanie Meyer

VISION

100% Student Success

MISSION

Educate and prepare each student for college, career, and life

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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@PinellasCountySchoolsVideos

@PCS_Super