



# **PLANNING FOR PROGRESS**

**A PORTFOLIO REVIEW OF PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS**

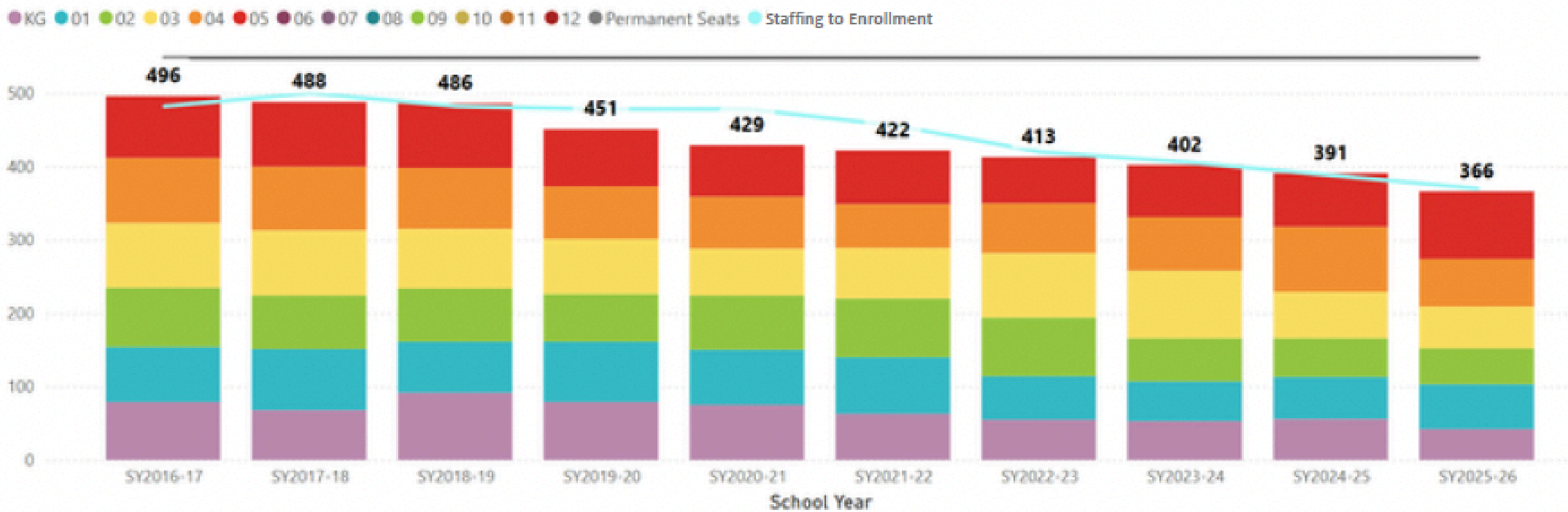
**SUNSET HILLS ELEMENTARY MEETING  
FALL 2026 RECOMMENDATIONS**

***PRESENTED AT SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: OCTOBER 6, 2026***

# SUNSET HILLS ELEMENTARY AND TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE

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

TABLE 1: SUNSET HILLS ES SCHOOL CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT



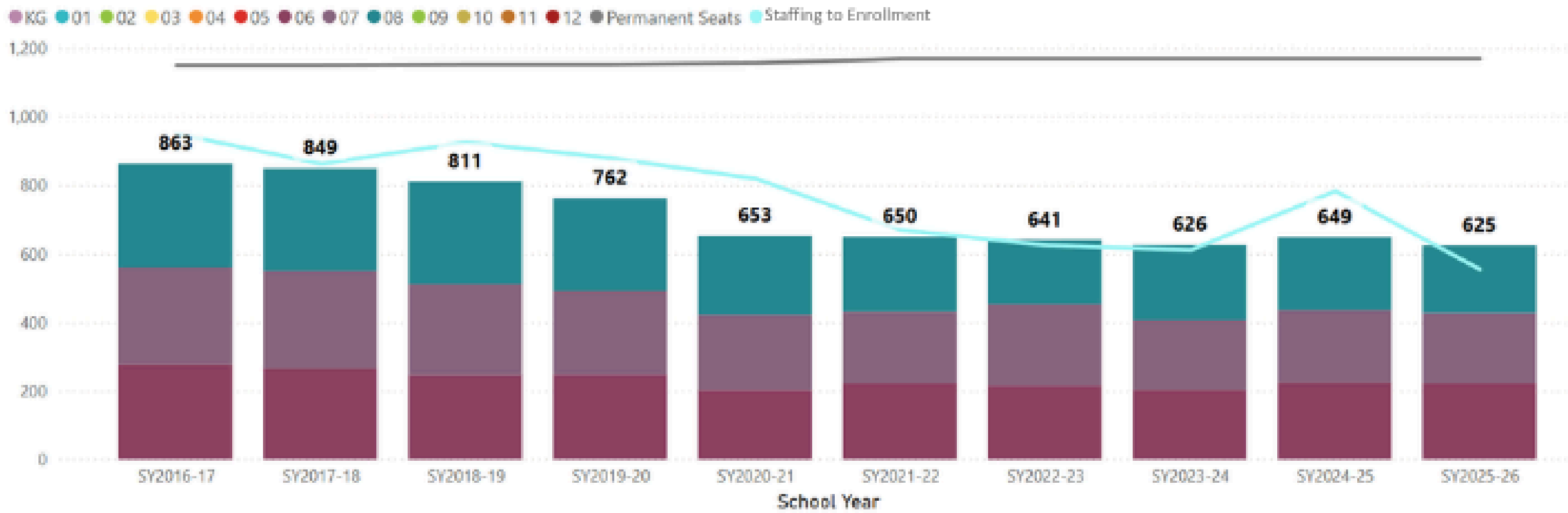
Official 2025-26 Count Snapshot Data (Survey 2), FISH and Program Capacity  
Tables demonstrate student enrollment in bar charts, total permanent building capacity (student stations) in the grey line graph, and staffing for the student population and programs in the teal line.



# SUNSET HILLS ELEMENTARY AND TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE

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

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.

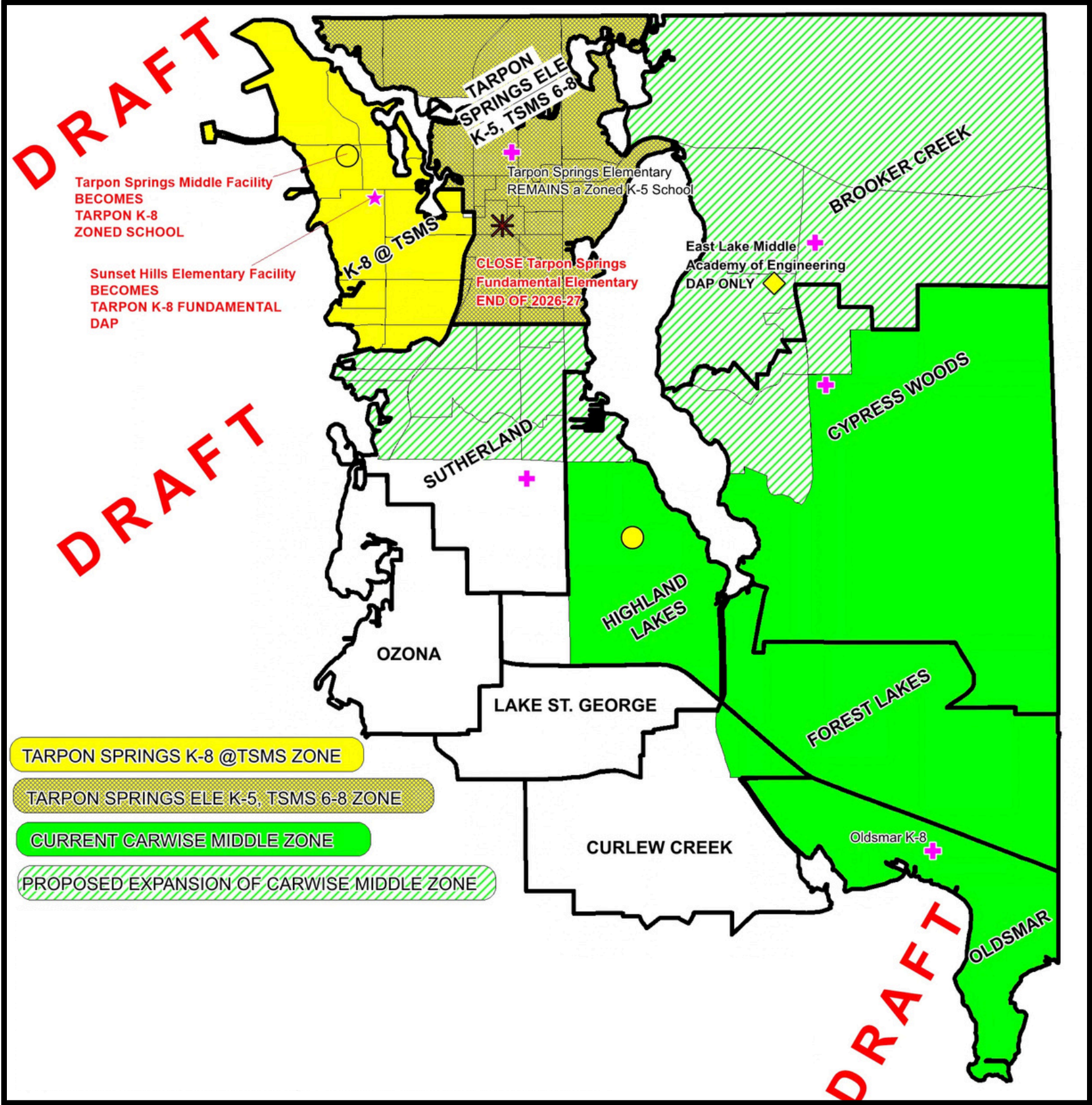


# SUNSET HILLS ELEMENTARY AND TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE

- 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.
- 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.
- 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. Students who currently attend Tarpon Springs Elementary will be zoned for the Tarpon Springs zoned K-8 for grades 6-8.
- 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.



# SUNSET HILLS ELEMENTARY AND TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE



# SUNSET HILLS ELEMENTARY AND TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE

TABLE 3: PROJECTED CAPACITY & ENROLLMENT

|                    | 2026-27<br>ENROLLMENT* | PERMANENT<br>CAPACITY | UTILIZATION | PROJECTED<br>ENROLLMENT | PROJECTED<br>UTILIZATION |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sunset Hills ES    | 332                    | 548                   | 61%         |                         |                          |
| Tarpon Springs MS  | 610                    | 1,169                 | 52%         |                         |                          |
| Tarpon Springs K-8 |                        | 1,052                 |             | 920 <sup>#</sup>        | 87%                      |
| Carwise MS         | 829                    | 1,251                 | 66%         | 1,141 <sup>**</sup>     | 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.*



# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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

No staff member will lose their job as a result of the recommendations. As the recommendation is to combine two neighborhood schools, the district will follow established processes for K-8 staff merging.

## **WHAT WILL THE BELL SCHEDULE BE WITH A MIDDLE SCHOOL ON THE SAME CAMPUS?**

Based on Board approval of the Planning for Progress recommendations, bell schedules for all schools will be brought to the School Board and finalized by Spring 2027.

## **WILL THE YOUNGEST LEARNERS BE IN THE SAME SPACE AS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS?**

The design of K-8 sites across the district includes separate building spaces for older and younger students. This allows for building a campus-wide culture while ensuring safe, developmentally appropriate educational spaces. Construction on the site of TSMS for elementary spaces will begin in Spring 2027 in order to open for the 2027-28 school year.

# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

## **WILL THE CAMBRIDGE AND LEADERSHIP CONVERATORY FOR THE ARTS PROGRAMS REMAIN AT THE K-8?**

Yes. Current academic programming at Sunset Hills and Tarpon Middle schools will remain as the schools become a K-8 school.

## **WHAT EXTRA CURRICULAR AND ELECTIVE OPPORTUNITIES WILL THE K-8 HAVE NEXT YEAR?**

Extracurricular activities (e.g., clubs, athletics) and electives will be determined based on student interests and requests. The location of the K-8 on the current middle school site ensures that the facilities can fully support traditional middle-grades opportunities, such as athletics, and provide ample space for all extracurricular activities.

# TIMELINE: FALL 2026 RECOMMENDATIONS

## SEPTEMBER 2026

### SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: SEPT 10, 2026

Topic: Fall Recommendations

### SCHOOL-BASED MEETINGS #1: SEPT 14-21, 2026

Topic: Individual Site Recommendations & Policy Implications

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: SEPT 22, 2026 @ 5 PM

Opportunity for Public Comment

## NOVEMBER 2026

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: NOV 10, 2026 @ 10 AM

Topic: Policy 2250 Second Reading

## OCTOBER 2026

### SCHOOL-BASED MEETINGS #2: SEPT 23 - OCT 6, 2026

Topic: Second meeting for schools recommended for closure

### SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: OCT 6, 2026

Topic: Individual Site Recommendations & Policy Implications

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: OCT 13, 2026 @ 5 PM

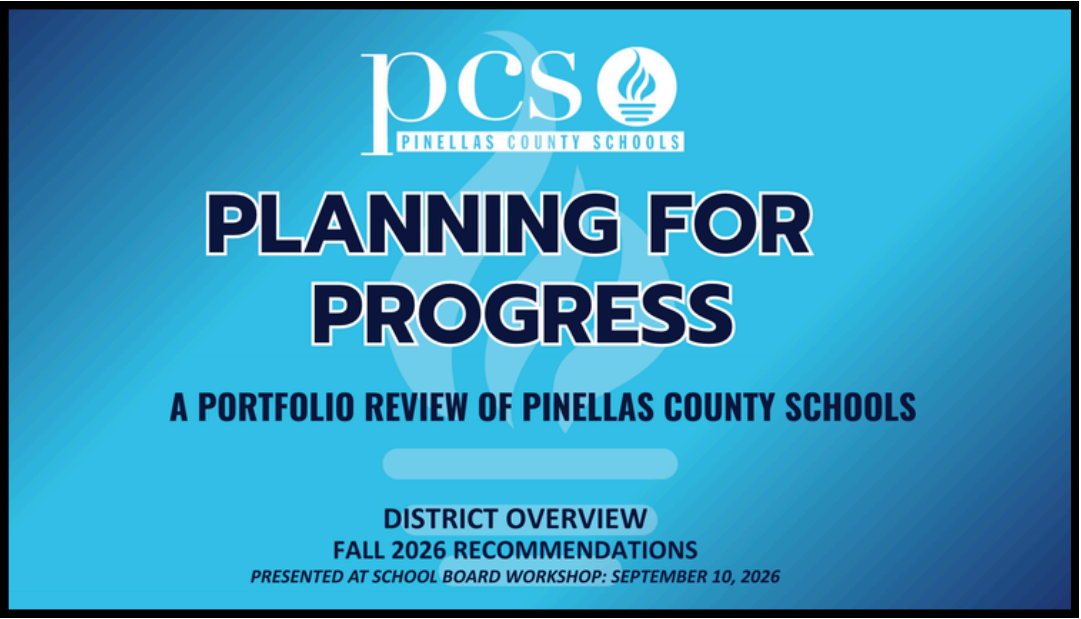
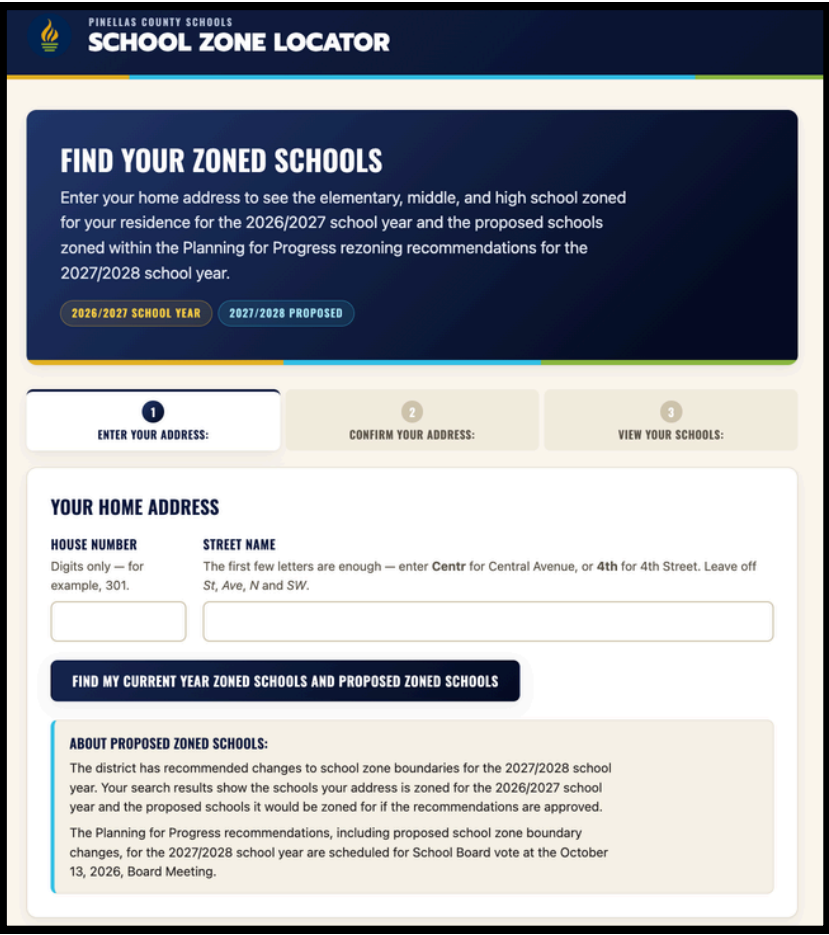
Opportunity for Public Comment and Board Vote on  
Recommendations and Policy 2250 First Reading

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: OCT 27, 2026 @ 5 PM

Topic: Policy 5120 First Reading



# LEARN MORE AT WWW.PCSB.ORG/PROGRESS



## WEBSITE

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

## SCHOOL LOCATOR

CURRENT & PROPOSED SCHOOL ZONES

## VIDEOS

BY RECOMMENDATION &  
GEOGRAPHIC AREA

## FEEDBACK BUTTON



ALL SUBMISSIONS WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL BOARD MEMBERS

