

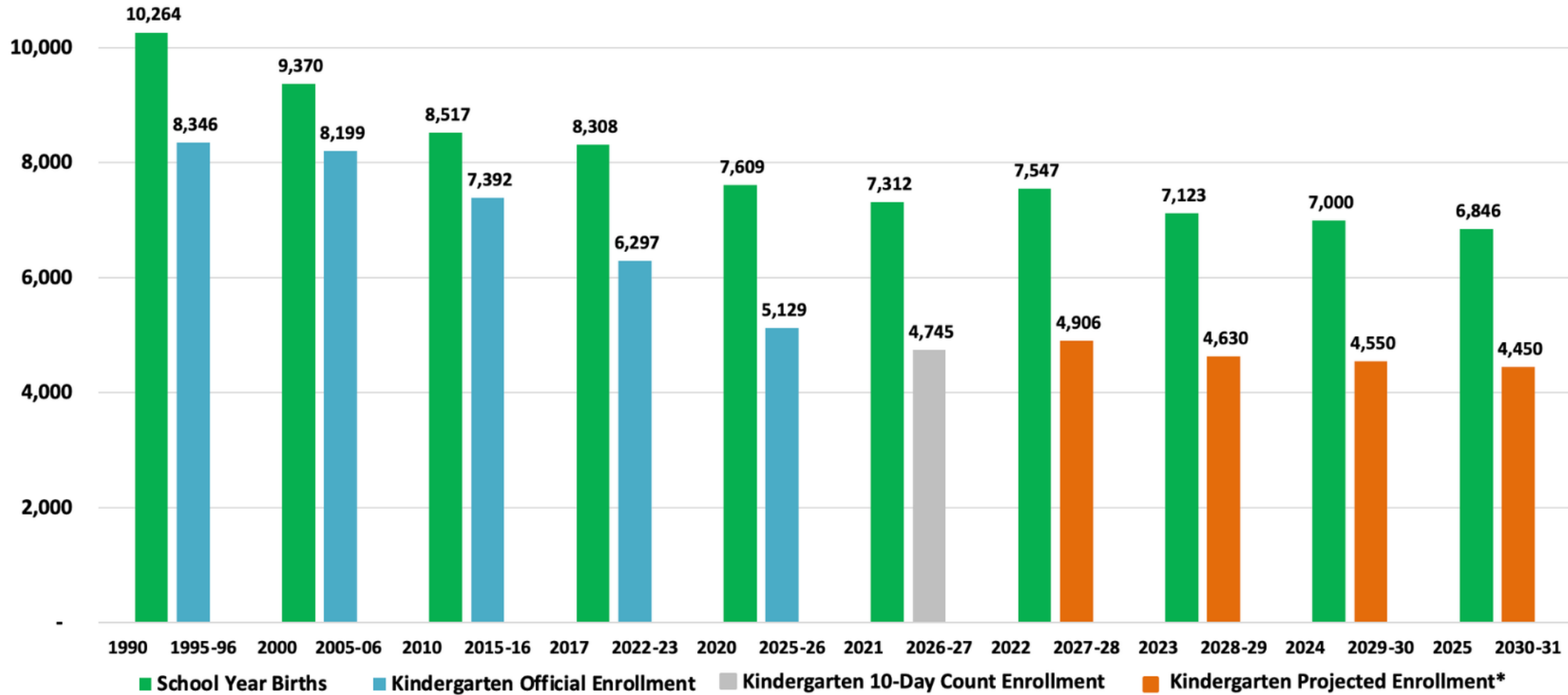


PLANNING FOR PROGRESS

A PORTFOLIO REVIEW OF PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE MEETING
FALL 2026 RECOMMENDATIONS
PRESENTED AT SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP: OCTOBER 6, 2026

PINELLAS COUNTY BIRTH RATES

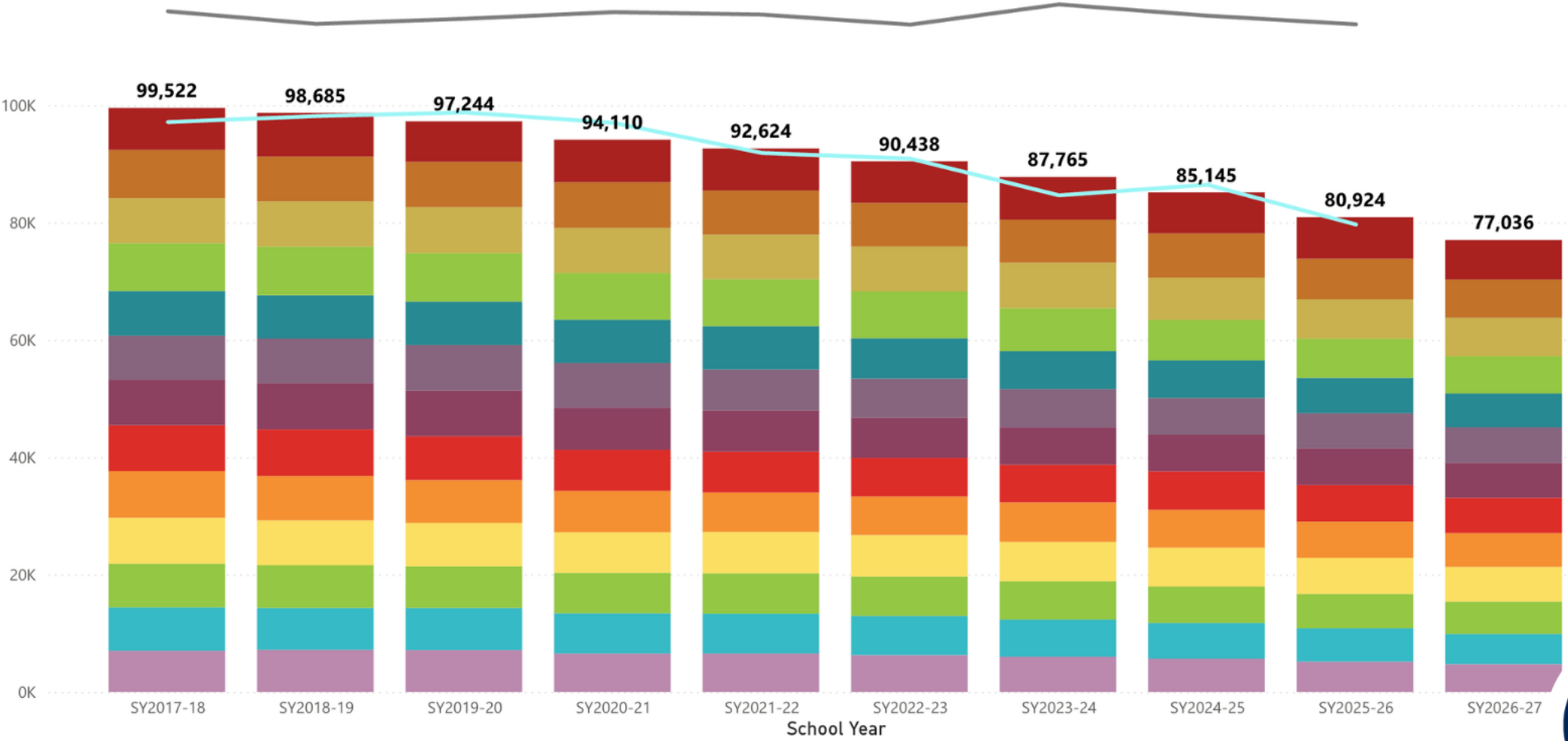


*Projected enrollment based on 65% of births in Pinellas County in the corresponding calendar year.

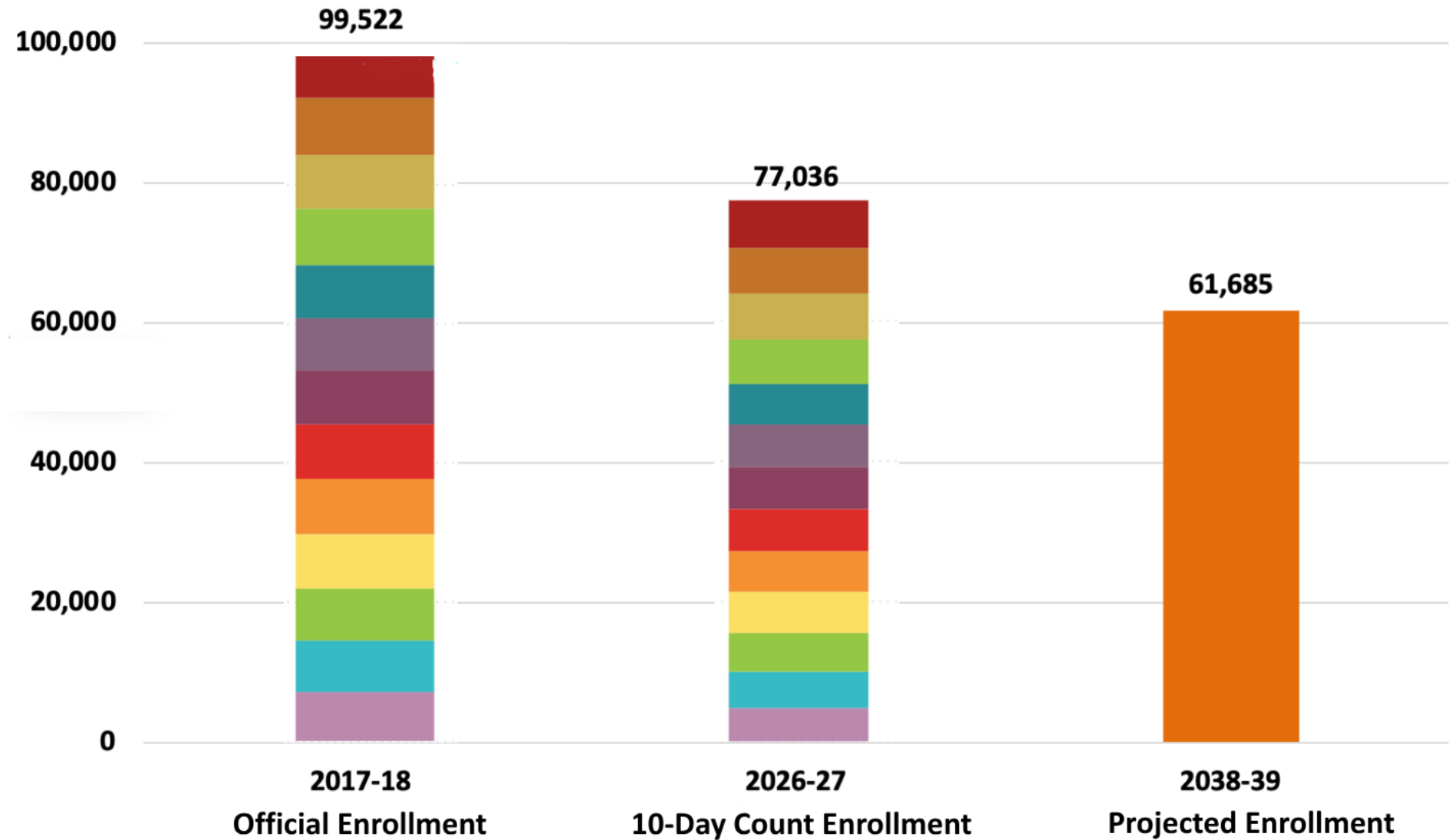


DISTRICT ENROLLMENT & BUILDING CAPACITY

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



PCS ENROLLMENT PROJECTION



PINELLAS COUNTY POPULATION TRENDS

THE SCHOOL-AGE POPULATION IN PINELLAS COUNTY IS EXPECTED TO DECREASE OR PLATEAU THROUGH 2050.

THE POPULATION OF RESIDENTS AGED 80+ WILL DOUBLE BY 2050.



BEBR

**Bureau of Economic and
Business Research**

PORTFOLIO REVIEW

A STRATEGIC AND COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH FOR THRIVING SCHOOLS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Student-Centered Opportunities
- Enrollment and Demand Trends
- Grade Configuration and Community Demand
- Program Availability and Geographic Distribution
- Site Capacity, Building Utilization, and Facility Investments
- Community Development and Demographic Analysis
- Public and Private Partnership Opportunities
- School Attendance Boundaries and Transportation Considerations
- Stakeholder Input and Community Priorities



FALL 2026 INDIVIDUAL SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

KINGS HIGHWAY ELEMENTARY MAGNET

CLOSE KINGS HIGHWAY ELEMENTARY MAGNET

PINELLAS PARK ELEMENTARY

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

BLANTON ELEMENTARY

CLOSE BLANTON ELEMENTARY

BOCA CIEGA HIGH

CREATE A TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL AT BOCA CIEGA HIGH

AZALEA MIDDLE

RELOCATE AND RENAME AZALEA MIDDLE

AZALEA ELEMENTARY

RELOCATE AND EXPAND AZALEA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO A K-8

BEAR CREEK ELEMENTARY

CLOSE BEAR CREEK ELEMENTARY

LEALMAN INNOVATION ACADEMY

CLOSE LEALMAN INNOVATION ACADEMY

BOARD REQUESTS

SUNSET HILLS ELEMENTARY, TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE, AND TARPON SPRINGS FUNDAMENTAL

UPDATED
RECOMMENDATION

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

EXPAND TARPON SPRINGS FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO A
FUNDAMENTAL K-8 SCHOOL ON THE CURRENT SUNSET HILLS ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL CAMPUS, BEGINNING IN THE 2027-28 SCHOOL YEAR.

JOHN M. SEXTON ELEMENTARY

ADDITIONAL
ANALYSIS

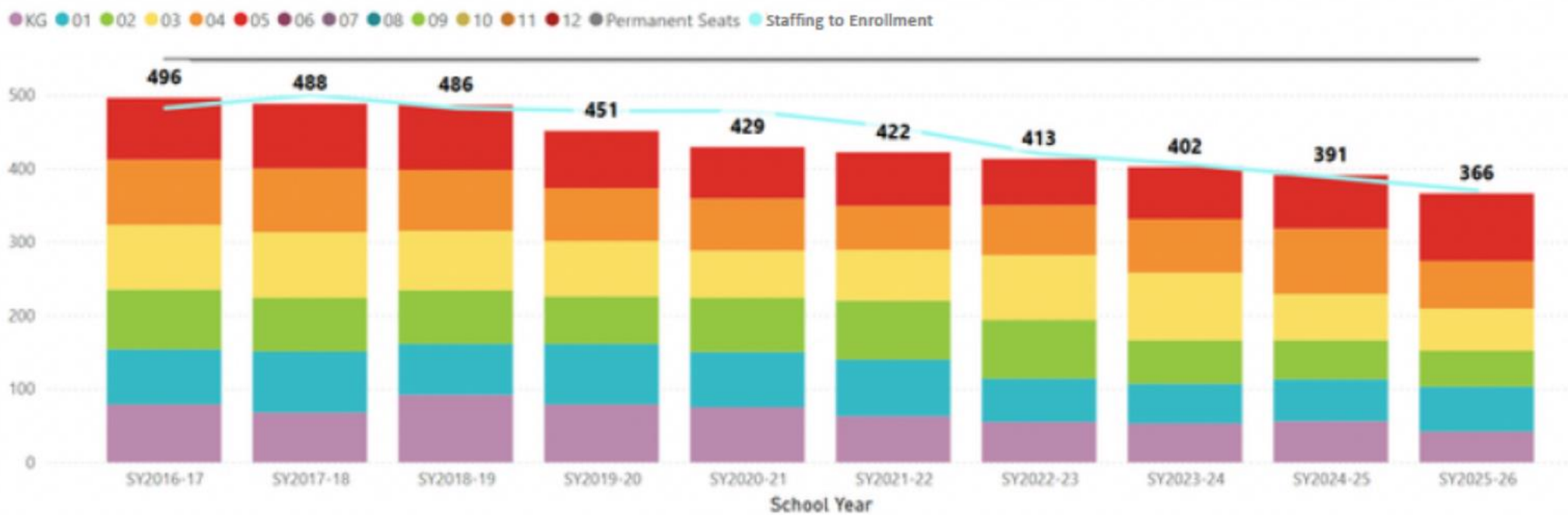
CLOSE JOHN M. SEXTON ELEMENTARY



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



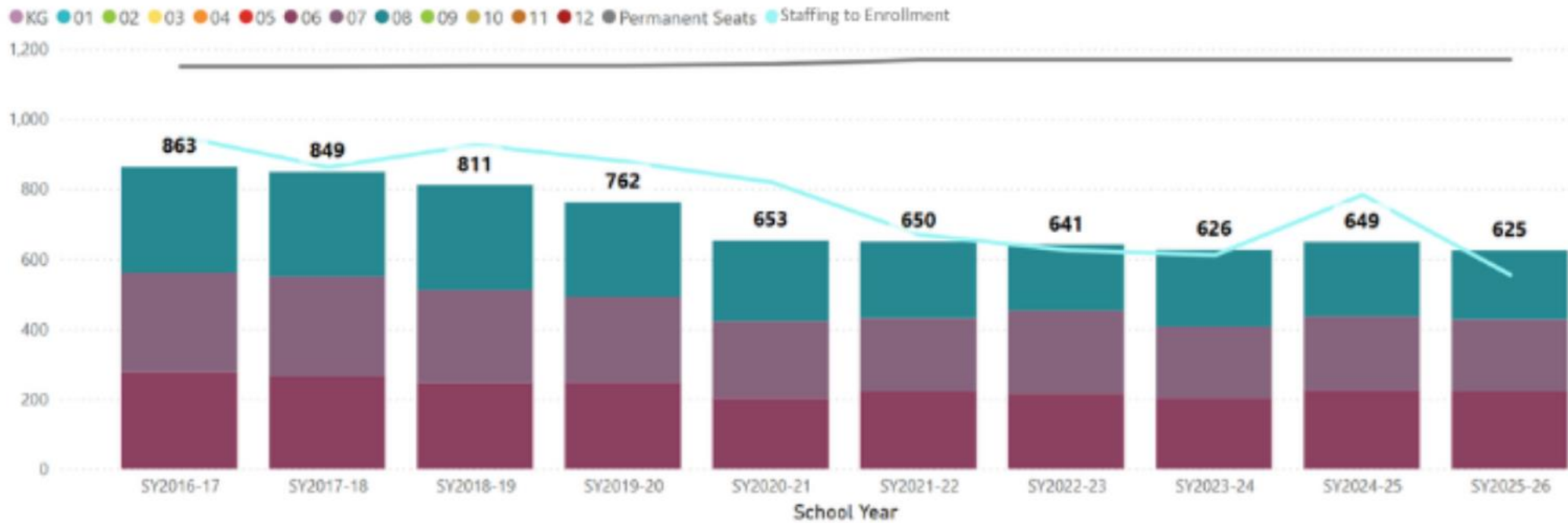
Official 2025-26 Count Snapshot Data (Survey 2), FISH and Program Capacity
Tables demonstrate student enrollment in bar charts, total permanent building capacity (student stations) in the grey line graph, and staffing for the student population and programs in the teal line.



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.

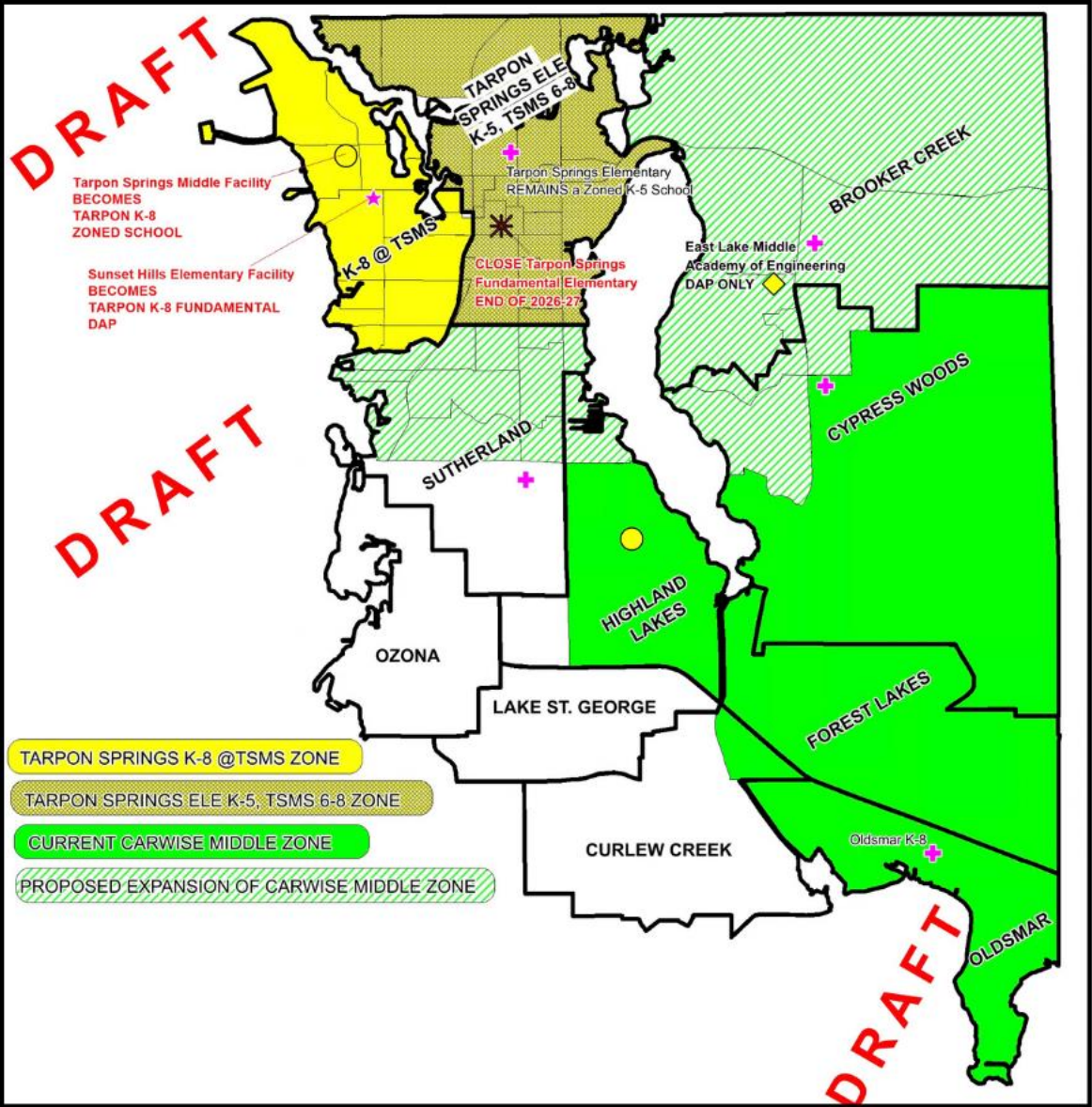


SUNSET HILLS ELEMENTARY AND TARPON SPRINGS MIDDLE

- 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 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%

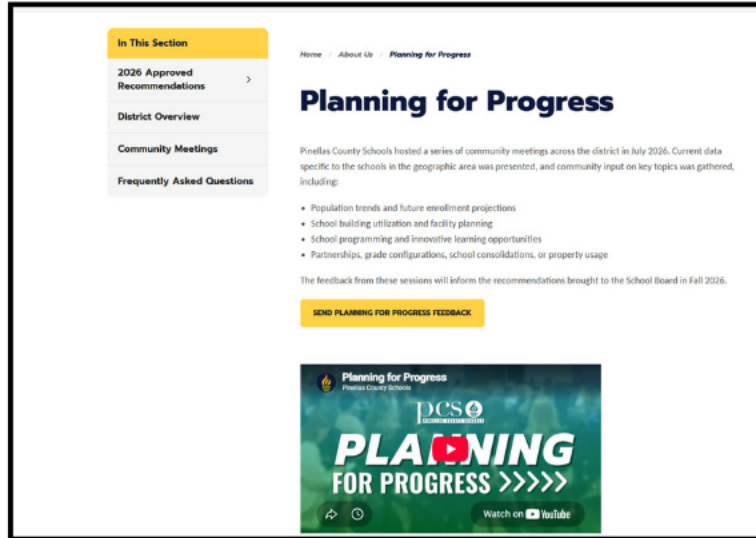
**2026-27 Enrollment as of the 10-day count (August 24, 2026).*

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.*

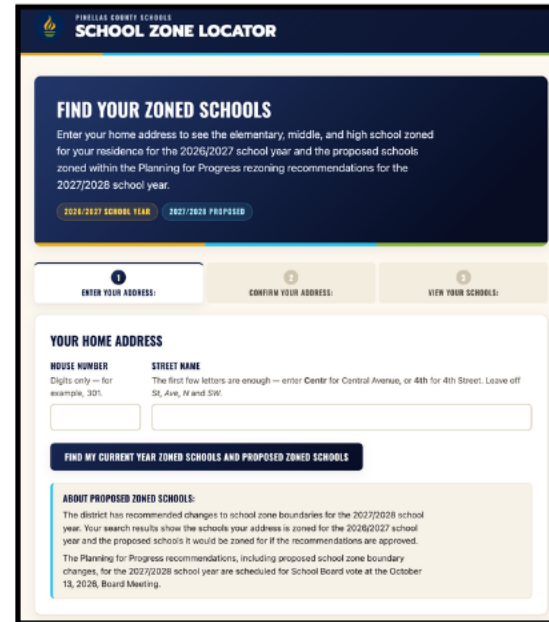


LEARN MORE AT WWW.PCSB.ORG/PROGRESS



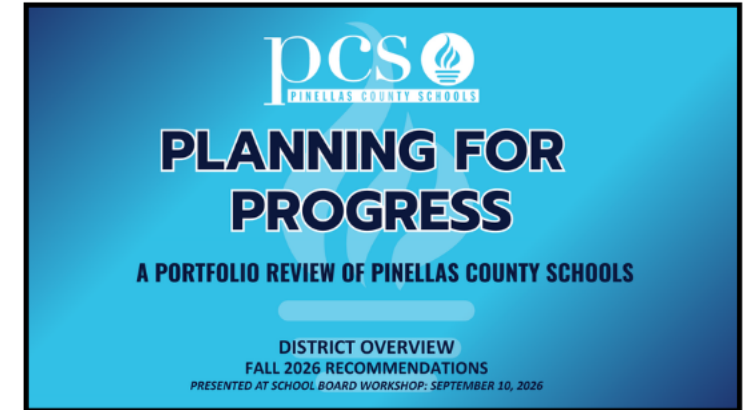
WEBSITE

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

SEND PLANNING FOR PROGRESS FEEDBACK

ALL SUBMISSIONS WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL BOARD MEMBERS



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 BOARD WORKSHOP: OCT 6, 2026

Topic: Individual Site Recommendations & Policy Implications

SCHOOL-BASED MEETINGS #2: OCT 6-12, 2026

Topic: Second meeting for schools recommended for closure

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



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.