THE MISSION of the Pinellas County School Board is to provide the best opportunities for all students to succeed by adopting policies that ensure continual improvement for highest student achievement, safe learning environments and effective, efficient operation. The District Strategic Plan demonstrates one of the many ways the School Board supports the strategic work to support 100% student success.

A NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

“The District’s annual report is an all-encompassing reflection of all that we are and all that Pinellas County Schools is honored to have achieved over the 2022-2023 school year. Our students, teachers and staff received a wide array of state and national recognitions, and our schools continuously elevated the student experience across the district while we continued to outpace the state in academic assessments. We remain proud of our safe and respectful schools, our outstanding volunteers, our efficient operations, and our connection with community and look forward to another successful school year.”

KEVIN K. HENDRICK
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WHO WE ARE

VISION
100% STUDENT SUCCESS

MISSION
EDUCATE AND PREPARE EACH STUDENT FOR COLLEGE, CAREER AND LIFE.

CORE VALUES
• COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY
• RESPECTFUL AND CARING RELATIONSHIPS
• CULTURAL COMPETENCE
• INTEGRITY
• RESPONSIBILITY
• CONNECTEDNESS

THE FAST FACTS
Pinellas County Schools is...

FLORIDA’S 8TH LARGEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOME TO A TOTAL OF 93,988 PK-12 STUDENTS
THE LARGEST EMPLOYER IN PINELLAS COUNTY

CHOOSE YOUR OWN Adventure
From day one, Pinellas County Schools students have opportunity.

18 Career/Technical Programs
260 STEM Academies
76 Elementary Robotics Programs

123 Art Programs
99 Gifted Programs
7 Languages Taught

37 Orchesta Programs
60+ Industry Certification Programs
26 Free VPK School Sites

Pinellas County Schools students saved $15.4 million in college tuition by completing 20,253 courses for 60,759 college credits!
WHERE THE MONEY GOES

78% Teaching, library materials, transporting, supervising and counseling students

14% Acquiring, operating and maintaining school facilities

4% Staff training and curriculum development

4% Central and fiscal services, general administration and district technology

HELPING HANDS

1,375 active mentors serving 2,972 students

23,186 Active Volunteers

CASH FOR COURSES

Pinellas County Schools students saved $15.4 million in college tuition by completing 20,253 courses for 60,759 college credits!

20K COURSES $15.4M SAVED 60K CREDITS

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

24,800 MAGNET, FUNDAMENTAL AND CAREER ACADEMY STUDENTS

PARTICIPATING IN 82 PROGRAMS ENROLLED AT 53 SCHOOLS

STUDENT POPULATION: 107,153

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

- White: 51.3%
- Black: 19.0%
- Hispanic: 19.8%
- Asian: 4.0%
- Pacific Islander/Other: 0.3%
- American Indian: 0.1%
- Mult-Racial: 5.5%

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2022-23 IN REVIEW

STRATEGIC GOAL 1
Increase student achievement resulting in improvements for each school’s learning gains, grade-level proficiency rates, graduation rates and school grade designations of A or B.

IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE NEW STATE BEST STANDARDS AND FAST ASSESSMENTS:
PCS demonstrated its highest ranking in five years in math, ELA, science, and civics compared to other districts in the state.

1ST First among the large districts in math proficiency
3RD Third among the large districts in ELA proficiency

PCS GRADUATION RATE CONTINUES TO OUTPACE THE STATE AND RANKS HIGHLY AMONG STATE’S 10 LARGEST DISTRICTS

- 89.0% Palm Beach County
- 88.2% Miami-Dade County
- 88.1% Pinellas County
- 87.9% Hillsborough County
- 87.3% State of Florida
- 87.2% Brevard County
- 87.2% Broward County
- 87.0% Orange County
- 85.6% Duval County
- 82.5% Lee County
- 78.3% Polk County

STRATEGIC GOAL 2
Ensure innovative curriculum, instruction and assessments that are designed and delivered with a focus on content rigor, student engagement and continuous improvement to accelerate academic achievement.

- +126 Expanded free full-day Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) to 126 classrooms across 26 schools
- +40% Increased VPK enrollment by 40%, serving over 2,500 of our communities’ youngest learners
- +180 Provided 180+ district-sponsored field trips for more than 21,000 students across all grades

STRATEGIC GOAL 3
Develop and sustain a rewarding, healthy, safe and secure environment that promotes the physical, emotional and mental well-being of all students, faculty and staff, resulting in a culture of learning for the individual employee and student.

CLIMATE AND BEHAVIOR DEPARTMENT
Created the Climate and Behavior Department which fulfilled:

- 2,560 hours of professional development
- 148 school support requests

CLIMATE AND BEHAVIOR SUMMER INSTITUTE

- 3-DAY training for school staff
- 26 SESSIONS on strategies for creating and improving school culture and climate
- 450+ school staff participated

STRATEGIC GOAL 4
Provide equity and excellence of education by ensuring the needs of each and every student are known and met, in order to increase performance and reduce the disparity in graduation rates, proficiency scores on assessments, participation and performance in accelerated courses, disciplinary infractions and placement in Exceptional Student Education programs.

- 200% Over 200% increase in Black students engaged in group mentoring programs.
- 2x Exceptional Student Education (ESE) participation in career and technical (CTE) programs nearly doubled in 2022-23.
**STRATEGIC GOAL 5**

Achieve the district’s mission for career- and college-readiness for all students by adopting high-quality standards, interdisciplinary curriculum content, aligned instructional practices, appropriate student supports, necessary resource allocation and parent and community engagement to ensure each student graduates with a plan, resources and navigational skills to support their postsecondary path.

- **206** students participated in summer career internships
- **50%** of seniors submitted a college application
- **750** students took dual enrollment courses at Pinellas Technical College
- **3.4K** students took dual enrollment courses at SPC, UF, USF, and Embry Riddle.
- **51%** of seniors earned at least one industry certification, providing them the ability to immediately enter the workforce.

**STRATEGIC GOAL 6**

Develop and sustain effective and efficient use of all resources by aligning strategic project management structures and protocols with quality technology, data systems and business services to optimize operational continuity for improved student achievement and fiscal responsibility.

- Implemented salary increases for bus drivers to attract and retain drivers and increase on-time transportation.
- Developed new Student Assignment Reservation system to streamline the family experience for registration and district applications.
- Districtwide project management structures and protocols supported 30 strategic projects and initiatives, including an updated employee onboarding experience and re-design of the middle school student experience.

**STRATEGIC GOAL 7**

Develop and sustain diverse structures for communication that promote two-way engagement of students, staff, families and community in support of increased student achievement.

**PCS STAYS IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS FOR A SEAMLESS EXPERIENCE**

- **543 followers** on the Superintendent’s X account (formerly Twitter) with a combined total of **70,164 social followers** districtwide.
- **8,612 subscribers** to the new district newsletter, TogetherPCS.
- **3,588 stakeholder dialogues** facilitated through the Contact Us feature on district websites.
- **717 stakeholders** engaged with staff and provided feedback at nine Listen and Learn sessions.
Elisa Nelson Elementary placed second in the World Championship of Odyssey of the Mind competition.

Pinellas Park High choir performed at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York.

Clearwater High Marine Corp JROTC competed in their third consecutive National Drill Championship.

Students excel at the Regional Braille Challenge. Pinellas students earned first place in every category they competed in.

PCS students earned Congressional Choice Awards in the 13th and 14th Congressional Districts. Their art is displayed in the U.S. Capitol in D.C. for one year.

The Hollins High School Robotics Team (“Nerdyana”) won the state robotics competition, and advanced to compete against 192 international teams in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Championship.

Dunedin High School awarded 2023 Home Depot National Case Competition hosted by Junior Achievement and 3DE. 3DE connects education to real-world concepts.

Morgan Fitzgerald Middle School’s Dev Shah won the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Tarpon Springs High School’s Outdoor Performance Ensemble performed at the 96th Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade after placing fifth in the entire nation during the Bands of America Grand National Championships.

Photo by Tarpon Springs Outdoor Ensemble
Dr. Kristie Jo Redfering, a special education teacher at Nina Harris Exceptional Student Education Center, has been named the 2023 Teacher of the Year Award by the Council for Exceptional Children.

Marie Hill, a music and STEAM specialist at Douglas L. Jamerson Jr. Elementary, was named MSA Regional Teacher of the Year.

James B. Sanderlin IB World School Principal Carrie Cormier was named MSA Regional Principal of the Year.

Dr. Christine Wilson, principal at Orange Grove Elementary, was one of three finalists for the 2023 Florida Principal of the Year.

Lauren Gentry was selected for the 2022 Florida Art Education Association Adaptive Arts Educator Award.

Pinellas Technical College won 3 Tampa Bay Times “Best of the Best” awards:

- Gold Award for the Best Trade/Vocational School/College
- Bronze Award for the Best Cosmetology School & Best Nursing College

East Lake Middle School was recognized as the first Middle School AVID National Demonstration School in Pinellas County.

SCHOOL RECOGNITIONS

15 Pinellas schools won national Merit Awards from Magnet Schools of America (MSA):

MERIT AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS:
- Gulfport Montessori Elementary
- Tarpon Springs High

MERIT AWARD OF DISTINCTION WINNERS:
- Countryside High
- Douglas L. Jamerson, Jr. Elementary
- East Lake Middle Academy of Engineering
- Elisa Nelson Elementary
- Garrison-Jones Elementary
- James B. Sanderlin K-8 IB World
- John Hopkins Middle
- Largo Middle IB World
- Mildred Helms Elementary IB World
- Perkins Elementary Center for the Arts and International Studies
- Jacobson Technical High
- Ridgecrest Elementary
- Tarpon Springs Middle
The first Student Leadership Summit brought diverse groups of students from every school to the USF St. Petersburg campus to engage in a conference-style leadership experience. Throughout the day, students:

- provided feedback to the superintendent and district leaders,
- competed in a hands-on challenge that exercised their communication skills,
- explored the college campus during a scavenger hunt, and
- applied their leadership skills to plan a listen and learn session for the students at their schools.

**READ ACROSS PINELLAS (RAP)**

Read Across Pinellas (RAP) tutors utilized a research-based program to support kindergarten and first-grade students with building a firm foundation for reading success and growing their love for reading.

**RAP BY THE NUMBERS**

- **500** 500+ kindergarten and first grade students
- **100** 100 trained tutors providing individual 30-minute sessions two to three times a week
- **39%** Tutored students increased their state assessment performance by 39% between the first and third assessment

During Summer Bridge, **215** Pinellas County Schools alumni returned to tutor for RAP, serving and inspiring over 3,500 students in grades VPK through 3 at all 43 elementary Summer Bridge sites.
ARTS EDUCATION

**Ignite Arts Camp** is an exciting two-week summer program for students who are enrolled in a performing arts course and plan to continue their arts study during their 7th, 8th, or 9th grade year. Students work with master teachers and perform a variety of high-quality literature and/or choreography for audiences.

- Pinellas County Schools was named as one of the **Best Communities for Music Education by NAMM** for the fourth consecutive year. The national designation signals an outstanding commitment to music access and education.

- **3,797 K-12 students’ 2D and 3D artworks** were displayed in over 25 exhibitions at local museums, centers, and galleries during the school year. Additionally, 774 awards were earned by students.

- 310 middle and high school students earned 438 awards in the Pinellas County Art Region of the **Scholastic Art Awards**, for a total of **over $7,000 in scholarships**.

- Nearly **9,000 students** participated in visual arts field trips to local art museums and venues this past school year.

COLLEGE READINESS

Pinellas County was awarded the **most improved large district for FAFSA completion** by the Florida College Access Network.

Our graduates attend a **variety of schools**, including:
Carnegie Mellon, Cornell, Hampton, MIT, Morehouse, Pratt Institute, Purdue, Ringling College of Art and Design, Savannah College of Art and Design, Spelman, Stanford, Yale, military academies, state colleges and universities throughout Florida, including University of Florida, Pinellas Technical College, and St. Petersburg College, plus many more!

CAREER READINESS

- 50% of the total graduates earned at least one industry certification.

- 2,180 8th graders earned an industry certification.

- 16% increase in middle school students who earned a digital tools certification.

Every comprehensive high school’s **College and Career Center** was staffed with a full-time college- and career-readiness coordinator. The College and Career Center is the school’s hub of college and career information and support for high school students and families.
The School Climate and Behavior department was developed to provide school staff with side-by-side coaching to address school climate and behavior as needed. In 2022-2023, the department implemented a streamlined process for schools to request support with their Child Study Teams and student attendance; individual, classroom or school behavior management; and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support to meet the needs of all students.

Throughout the year, the School Climate and Behavior teams assisted six schools to redesign and re-launch their schoolwide Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) strategies. The department also provided an intensive full-day summer training and work session for 27 schools to reboot their PBIS programs.

SCHOOL SAFETY

For two years, PCS has collaborated with the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office to practice drills and learn best practices for working together to respond in the event of an emergency.

EQUITY WITH EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

Black students made up 20.4% of Magnet enrollment

4,300 Black students are enrolled in district application programs

The number of middle and high school Black students in advanced and CTE courses increased by 2,500+
Every school and district division recognized one staff member each month for embodying the PCS Core Value of the month. The Superintendent recognized a Superintendent Standout for demonstrating their commitment to PCS at every School Board meeting throughout the year.

LIVING OUR CORE VALUES

8,499 STAFF MEMBERS across the district were recognized by their peers for living the PCS Core Values through the PCS Praise employee recognition program.
EMPLOYEE ONBOARDING

Streamlined and improved the efficiency of onboarding processes for all employees.
Created preboarding, onboarding, and inboarding structures for all employee groups.
Shortened the length of time it takes to hire new bus drivers.
Digitized and modified the new hire paperwork and welcome processes with online forms, automated internal workflows, and updated welcome and information online videos.

TRANSPORTATION

- Increased the starting pay for bus drivers and relief drivers by 20% and the starting pay for lead drivers by 10%.
- Analyzed bus routes and ridership, and surveyed families to declare their need for transportation to optimize efficiency.
- Planned and implemented arterial bus stops for students who need transportation to attend their District Application Program.

FOOD & NUTRITION

Following Hurricane Ian, PCS’s Food and Nutrition department assisted in the preparation and delivery of more than 15,000 meals in Sarasota and Fort Myers school cafeterias.

MAJOR CAMPUS RENOVATION PROJECTS

PAUL B. STEPHENS SENSORY PLAYGROUND • RIBBON-CUTTING: MAY 2023

Paul B. Stephens Exceptional Students Education Center houses the district’s first sensory-therapeutic, wheelchair-accessible playground. The playground was created to serve all children, including those who use wheelchairs, are visually impaired, are deaf or hard of hearing, or have limited communication skills. Therapists, specialists and adaptive PE teachers, who played a role in the playground's design, incorporate the playground into the children's treatment plans.

SANDY LANE ELEMENTARY • GROUNDBREAKING: MAY 2023

$14M remodel of the existing Sandy Lane Elementary School campus, which houses the Conservatory for the Arts.

TYRONE MIDDLE • COMPLETED: AUGUST 2022

$28M renovations that included new construction, renovation, and remodeling of Tyrone Middle School to create a dynamic, state-of-the-art campus that fosters collaborative creativity, innovation and invention.

LAKEWOOD HIGH • COMPLETED: FEBRUARY 2023

$25M renovation that added a new artificial turf football field and new entrance to the football field that includes a new ticket booth/concession stand/restroom building, new front parking lot and school entrance.
LISTEN & LEARN

The Superintendent hosted nine community Listen & Learn sessions throughout the district to hear firsthand input from the community. The School Board and Superintendent are committed to expanding this type of community forum. The input gathered during these sessions is used to inform district improvements and further strengthen the partnership between the district and its community.

PCS Student Showcase provided a day for students and families to explore and experience the various learning choices and programs Pinellas County Schools has to offer. Families and students in Pre-K through 12th grade participated in interactive drum circles, dance lessons, gingerbread-cookie decorating and hands-on art projects. Families also cheered on current PCS students as they competed in culinary competitions, basketball games, and flag football with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

PINELLAS TOGETHER WITH SPC

PCS collaborated with St. Petersburg College in the Pinellas Together PCS Showcase. Together, they experienced PCS’s variety of programs and generated strategies for how to work together to enhance the continuum of education across our institutions to build the future of Pinellas County.

VOLUNTEERS AND MENTORS OF THE YEAR

ALEXANDRA MILLER
Youth Volunteer, Forest Lakes Elementary

CLAIRE COUSINS
Take Stock in Children Mentor of the Year

BOBBY COSTON, JR.
Elementary Mentor/Program of the Year, Maximo Elementary 5000 Role Models

BRENDA GEORGE
Adult Volunteer, Osceola Fundamental High

MARK WEINKRANTZ
Lunch Pals Mentor of the Year

JEANENE ANDREWS
Middle School Mentor/Program of the Year, Clearwater Fund. Middle S.T.E.P.

PETER YELTON
Senior Volunteer, Northeast High

BILL SCHMIDLING
Most Active Mentor

JESSICA KOONTZ
High School Mentor/Program of the Year, Boca Ciega High Girlfriends
SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY

Lisa N. Cane, Chairperson
Laura Hine, Vice-Chairperson
Carol J. Cook
Caprice Edmond
Eileen M. Long
Stephanie Meyer
Dawn Peters

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100% Student Success

MISSION

Educate and Prepare Each Student For College, Career and Life

To learn more, visit pcsb.org