

# QUARTER 3 UPDATE



## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: POSITIVE STAFF EXPERIENCES OBJECTIVE 9: ATTRACT AND RETAIN OUTSTANDING FACULTY AND STAFF

Progress: July 2024 - March 2025



### OBJECTIVE 9 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

#### PCS Teacher of the Year

Dennis Zuercher, a social studies teacher at Gibbs High School, was named the **2025 Pinellas County Schools Teacher of the Year**. Mr. Zuercher is a third-generation PCS educator and a proud Gibbs High alum. His classroom motto is: "Learn and laugh together!"

#### Alternative Certification Supports

To provide more **effective, hands-on support** for alternatively certified teachers, PCS is reimagining its **Transition-to-Teaching** program, which currently serves 89 employees.

#### Employee Housing Benefits

In response to rising housing costs in Pinellas County, PCS has partnered with **over 20 property management companies** to offer **discounts to PCS employees**. These discounts include waived or reduced application fees and lower first month's rent and security deposits. The district's efforts were **highlighted** in the Tampa Bay Partnership's report, "**Beyond the Front Door: An In-Depth Look at Housing Affordability in Tampa Bay.**" The Tampa Bay Partnership, supported by the Duke Energy Foundation, is dedicated to improving the well-being of Tampa Bay residents.

### FAST FACTS



#### Leading with Core Values

Staff continue to recognize their colleagues for **exemplifying the PCS Core Values**, and leaders find unique ways to publicly **celebrate** the nearly **6,000 staff** who received a **PCS Praise recognition** from colleagues.



#### Teacher Apprenticeships

The 25 PCS teacher apprentices will attend a **three-day summer workshop** on essential topics like impact projects, professionalism, and teaching expectations.

### PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

- [What's New for the 2024–25 School Year, July 2024](#)
- [Pinellas Instructional Eval System 2024-2025](#)
- [Pinellas Administrator Eval System 2024-2025](#)
- [Teacher Exchange Program, December 2024](#)

### COMMUNICATION CORNER

- [School Board Attorney David Koperski recognized for excellence in the profession](#)
- [Gibbs High School teacher Dennis Zuercher is Pinellas County Schools Teacher of the Year](#)
- [Pinellas educators receive special recognition from Magnet Schools of America](#)
- [Superintendent Kevin Hendrick is again named one of Tampa Bay's most influential leaders](#)



# QUARTER 3 UPDATE



## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: POSITIVE STAFF EXPERIENCES OBJECTIVE 10: INVEST IN ALL STAFF THROUGH CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Progress: July 2024 - March 2025



### OBJECTIVE 10 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

#### Leadership Development Programs

PCS supports **career advancement and leadership development** through programs like Leadership U, EmpowerED U, and Aspiring Leaders. This year, 32 staff members graduated from Leadership U and EmpowerED U, which focus on building **leadership and community engagement skills**. Following their participation in Aspiring Leaders, 19 staff advanced into the Targeted Selection program—beginning their **path toward becoming Assistant Principals**. Additional programs, including Teacher Apprenticeship, Certificate of Distinction, and Pinellas Leadership Academy, reflect the district’s commitment to **developing leaders from within**.

#### Peer-to-Peer Toolkit

As part of the adult learning initiative, PCS has developed a **professional learning toolkit** aligned with the PCS tenets for **quality adult learning**. Staff from across the district contributed more than **110 ready-to-use presentation slides** featuring effective adult learning strategies, reaching **nearly 500 peers**.

#### Adult Learning Training

PCS is redesigning the *Aha Moments* podcast to showcase impactful teaching that demonstrates the 5 Essentials of Effective Instruction, with selected teachers sharing their stories in a summer workshop and recorded episodes.

### FAST FACTS



#### On-Campus Professional Learning

PCS delivered **26 on-campus training sessions** during the school day, **reaching over 750 teachers**. The trainings focused on **classroom management and the 5 Essentials of Effective Instruction**, receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants.



#### School-Based Professional Learning

The role of site-based Professional Learning Coordinators was revised to enhance support and planning for school-based professional learning needs.

### PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

- [What’s New for the 2024–25 School Year, July 2024](#)
- [Professional Development Update, August 2024](#)
- [Professional Learning Catalog, August 2024](#)

### COMMUNICATION CORNER

- [Embrace Pinellas](#)
- [District celebrates 95 COD recipients](#)
- [Pinellas teacher apprentices share what they've learned halfway through two-year program](#)

