

QUARTER 1 UPDATE

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION OBJECTIVE 1: ACCELERATE INNOVATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR ALL STUDENTS



Progress: July 2024 - September 2024



OBJECTIVE 1 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Summer Camps

PCS hosted **30 summer enrichment camps** across 40 school sites, offering a wide range of high-interest subjects such as career and technical studies, visual arts, performing arts, STEM, science, and civics. **Nearly 3,800 students** participated in hands-on activities and educational field trips.

Middle School ELA

The middle school ELA curriculum includes standards-aligned local **field trips** to enhance the relevance and engagement of the learning experience. For example, eighth graders can explore Kennedy Space Center while reading about the theme *To Infinity and Beyond*.

Secondary Mathematics

Teachers engage in monthly professional learning to utilize **interactive tools like Algebra tiles and Prism VR goggles**, which enhance student learning by connecting math concepts to real-world applications. In middle school math, the focus is on **increasing hands-on practice**, allowing students to build on concepts, deepen their understanding, and receive real-time feedback for continuous growth.

FAST FACTS



Arts

The Dali Museum Traveling Art Mobile visited six elementary schools, providing tours of the mini-museum to approximately **3,000 K-5 students** with their art teachers.



STEM Explorer Club Program

More than **2,300 students** from 84 elementary and middle schools dive into hands-on engineering design challenges and robotics, boost their teamwork skills and sharpen their leadership abilities.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

[What's New for the 2024-25 School Year, July 2024](#)

[District Application Program Updates, September 2024](#)

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[PCS students learn about coding at Summer Camp](#)

[PCS students explore the world of 3D printing](#)

[Back-to-School 2024-2025](#)

[Imagine. Innovate. Inspire with PCS Magnet & Fundamental Programs](#)



QUARTER 1 UPDATE

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION
OBJECTIVE 2: EXPAND EARLY LITERACY INITIATIVES FOR ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES PRE-K-3



Progress: **July 2024 - September 2024**



OBJECTIVE 2 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Summer Early Childhood Institute

The 2024 PCS Summer Early Childhood Institute provided approximately **50 professional learning opportunities** for PreK3 through second grade teachers. Staff participated in **over 1,000 sessions**.

Pinellas Early Literacy Initiative (PELI)

PCS has **authored** a series of **decodable books** for kindergarten and has **expanded** the series to **first grade**. This familiarity **reinforces learning** by building upon the foundations established in kindergarten.

University of Florida Literacy Initiative (UFLI)

The UFLI phonics program, originally implemented in kindergarten, has been further developed and integrated into the **first and second grade ELA curriculum in all elementary schools**. Each school receives support for implementing UFLI phonics through site-based or district coaches. These coaches model instructional techniques, while district staff provide just-in-time training tailored to student achievement data or specific school requests. This approach ensures that phonics instruction is effectively adapted to meet the needs of all students

FAST FACTS



Summer Read Across Pinellas (RAP)

157 PCS alumni and community members worked with individual rising kindergarten through rising third grade students providing over **11,000 hours** of reading tutoring during June.



Collaborating with the Community

PCS is collaborating with the Early Learning Coalition and JWB to establish a Pinellas County Early Childhood Institute for public and private providers.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

[What's New for the 2024-25 School Year, July 2024](#)

[ChangeMakers Presentation, September 2024](#)

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[New Worlds Reading Initiative](#)



QUARTER 1 UPDATE

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION
OBJECTIVE 3: ENSURE GRADUATES ARE PREPARED FOR WORKFORCE AND COLLEGE SUCCESS



Progress: July 2024 - September 2024



OBJECTIVE 3 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Dual Enrollment

PCS began offering SLS 1301 - Career and Life Planning as its introductory Dual Enrollment course offered in high schools. This course is designed to equip students with essential postsecondary planning and soft skills for life after high school. This course benefits a broad range of students, including those entering the workforce directly or pursuing higher education. The number of enrollments in **college-credit earning courses increased by 6%** this year.

Participation in **career dual enrollment**, which focuses on career and technical workforce preparation, **increased by 16%**.

Free PSAT and SAT

All students in **grades eight through eleven** will have the opportunity to take the PSAT during the school day in October **at no cost**. **Twelfth-grade students** will have the opportunity to take the digital SAT **at no cost** in October. Similarly, **eleventh-grade** students can take the digital SAT for **free** in March.

FAFSA Completion Events

Throughout the summer, the high school College and Career Coordinators focused on FAFSA completion. The summer events, hosted in collaboration with SPC and LEAP Tampa Bay, featured a DJ, lunch, participant swag, and special scholarships awarded to attendees.

FAST FACTS



Bright Futures Scholarships

Bright Futures Scholarships awarded to PCS graduates increased by nearly 5%.



College Credit & Career Dual Enrollment Participation

The total enrollment in college-credit and career dual enrollment courses increased to over 41,500.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

[What's New for the 2024-25 School Year, July 2024](#)

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[Pinellas Technical College students get a taste of the NFL](#)

[26 PCS students named National Merit Semifinalists](#)

[Never Give Up! Night Foreman Obtains GED](#)

[Doggie Daycare at Summer Camp](#)



QUARTER 1 UPDATE

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION OBJECTIVE 4: EARN A DISTRICT GRADE OF A



Progress: July 2024 - September 2024



OBJECTIVE 4 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

PCS is an “A” District

PCS earned a district-level **grade of an “A”** for the first time in its history. The district ranked in the state’s top quartile (15th out of 67 districts in Florida).

Data Analytics

The district has developed and launched a Data Analytics Dashboard for leaders, with ongoing updates. In Spring 2025, a teacher view will be introduced to empower teachers to deliver data-driven, differentiated instruction tailored to each student’s needs.

Cognia Districtwide Accreditation

PCS was awarded continued districtwide accreditation status by Cognia, scoring at the highest level of performance and earning accolades for noteworthy practices in leadership, strategic planning, and continuous improvement.

FAST FACTS



School Grades

83% of PCS schools earned a school grade of **A or B**, and every PCS school earned a grade of A, B, or C.

- 55 “A” schools
- 40 “B” schools
- 20 “C” schools



Graduation Rate

The senior cohort began the school year with an 11-percentage point increase in on-track graduation compared to the start of the previous school year.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

[What’s New for the 2024-25 School Year, July 2024](#)

[PCS Earns District Accreditation Renewal, July 2024](#)

[District and School Grades, August 2024](#)

[School Improvement Plans, August 2024](#)

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[Pinellas County Schools is an A District](#)

[Pinellas County Schools Continues to Elevate Academic Excellence](#)

