

PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS 2023

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



OUR LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Pinellas County Schools is proud of the success achieved during the 2021-2022 school year and appreciates the support of our Legislative Delegation. Pinellas County continued our positive trajectory forward with high expectations and high achievement for students and staff. District employees continuously strive for our vision of 100% student success to ensure students have access to a high-quality education, innovative instructional programming options and all other support services the district provides for students and families. Through the ongoing support of the Pinellas Legislative Delegation, and elected officials across the state, that momentum continues in the new school year. The Pinellas County School Board's 2023 Legislative Platform outlines where support is needed to maximize student outcomes and best serve our community.

High-Quality HIGH-QUALITY PROGRAMMING AND STUDENT SUPPORTS

OUR GOALS:

Enhance the investment in developmentally appropriate, high-quality early learning and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) to include free, full-day programs for students.

More closely align with actual costs expended by districts, through an increase in dedicated funding for Mental Health, Safe Schools, ESE Guarantee and Student Transportation allocations.

In order to attract and retain support staff, increase general operating dollars (Base Student Allocation) by a minimum of 3% to sufficiently fund the costs including salaries, benefits, mandatory employer contributions to the Florida Retirement System.

Amend statutes and rules to allow school districts to utilize vans to transport students.

VPK BY THE NUMBERS

2.3K

VPK has expanded from 1,500 to 2,300 students in one year and continues to grow.

26

Tuition-free, full-day VPK is currently offered at 26 sites for the 2022-23 school year.

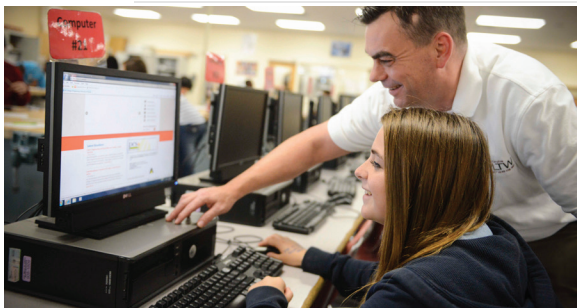
68

Three additional classrooms were added in the 2022-23 school year, for a total of 68 VPK classrooms.



Attract and Retain

ATTRACT AND RETAIN TEACHERS TO ADDRESS THE GROWING TEACHER SHORTAGE



OUR GOALS:

Allow school districts to rehire employees who have retired less than a year after retirement or immediately after completing Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) to fill instructional (teacher-level) vacancies without penalties to the school district and employees.

Increase funding for teacher salary categorical.

Increase full reciprocity for teacher certification with more states including all content and general knowledge examinations and endorsements and extend the amount of time to meet all requirements to five years.

Development

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

OUR GOALS:

Support \$3.4 million in grant funding for Pinellas Technical College to expand high-leverage career and technical programming such as heavy machinery operation/repair for Pinellas County Schools to enhance and accelerate district pathways for certified employment and livable wages.

Continue the Workforce Performance funding formula for performance-based industry certifications earned by postsecondary students.

Establish a funding mechanism process for school districts to apply for funds which cover programmatic start-up costs and capital expenditures for innovative workforce development programs within high-demand jobs.

PINELLAS TECHNICAL COLLEGE
graduates earned more than

\$128 MILLION

in cumulative income from 2019-2022
in their new careers.





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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Kevin K. Hendrick

VISION: 100% Student Success

MISSION: Educate and prepare each student for college, career and life