

Executive Summary: Pinellas Gulf Coast Academy

School Improvement Plan for 2017-18

Pinellas Gulf Coast Academy is an accredited, mid-county, alternative high school for students who wish to recover credits or accelerate their academic requirements for graduation. Our school vision is 100% Student Success. The mission of Pinellas Gulf Coast Academy is to educate and prepare each student for college, career, and life. Pinellas Gulf Coast Academy provides mastery-based coursework through a blended instructional model consisting of both online and teacher-directed instruction, which affords students an opportunity to complete credits at an individualized, or often accelerated pace, as well as improve their GPA. Pinellas Gulf Coast Academy is able to serve up to 400 students grades 09-12 and its staff includes two administrators, one paraprofessional, 17 teachers, and 8 staff members. Pinellas Gulf Coast Academy offers instruction in the core curriculum as well as art, exceptional student education, and ESOL.

School Celebrations

A review of our most recent school achievement data has given us reason to celebrate and build upon our school. These successes include:

- Our school was recognized for the “Most Improved School Attendance” for the 2016-17 school year among Pinellas County EAS schools.
- We are projected to have an improved graduation rate.
- A total of 126 students graduated in the 2016-17 school year.
- 76 May Grads 53% were reverted back to their home school roster for graduation rate credit. Also, 61% of these graduates met reading requirements at PGCA and 45% met Algebra requirements at PGCA.
- During our summer school program, 50 students graduated and 2% were reverted back to their home school roster for graduation rate credit. Also, 74% of these graduates met reading requirements at PGCA and 60% met Algebra requirements at PGCA.

Primary Goals:

To accomplish our mission, Pinellas Gulf Coast Academy:

1. 10% or more of students taking the ELA FSA, SAT, and ACT Reading will attain academic achievement growth towards graduation.
2. All students will make gains towards attainment of state proficiency rates in Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra II using Florida Standards assessment comparisons, including gains for each subgroup.
3. 20% or more of students taking the Biology EOC will achieve a rating of proficient.
4. Students will develop a working knowledge as to possible college and career opportunities.

Key Strategies:

The core instructional and monitoring strategies included in our action plans are:

- Reviewing APEX learning and formative assessment data to progress monitor students and drive teacher instruction.
- Individualizing direct instruction with research-based strategies based utilizing monitoring data.
- Conducting data chats with students to support student goal-setting based on data.
- Utilizing scales and rubrics aligned to a standards-based learning goal to assess instruction.
- Utilizing project-based and personalized learning when appropriate.

Professional Development

Professional Development efforts include providing new instructional staff with information on professional development opportunities on the Marzano framework and learning goals and scales, providing mentors and counseling to instructional staff, when needed, to train and guide teachers in best practices, team meetings to review student data and discuss instructional practices, and monthly team meetings centering around project-based and personalized learning instruction.

Parent and Community Engagement

Parent engagement efforts are ongoing. Engagement efforts include: parent/student orientation, volunteering outreach, family nights, contact by teachers, and family ESOL classes. Parent engagement efforts prove challenging due to our often transient student body, extended day school scheduling, and challenges with transportation.