



DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN

QUARTER 2 REPORT
2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Progress from **July 2024** through **December 2024**

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

- Making decisions and committing resources to attain each student's success
- Seeking out and connecting with families and community

Respectful and caring relationships

- Establishing positive relationships among all stakeholders
- Using the district vision to guide intentions, motives and actions

Cultural competence

- Understanding and honoring culturally-defined beliefs, needs, styles and behaviors of the students, families and communities we serve
- Valuing the benefit that individual differences bring to our school district
- Recognizing the importance of individual similarities and differences while working effectively with all stakeholders from various cultures, races, ethnicities and religious backgrounds

Integrity

- Maintaining the highest standards of behavior, ethics, fairness and honesty with ourselves and others
- Committing to doing the right things for the right reasons
- Demonstrating fairness in our judgments and actions

Responsibility

- Fulfilling commitments and promises through fact-based decision-making and problem-solving
- Taking ownership of our own behaviors
- Seeking opportunities for continuous improvement

Connectedness

- Teaming through internal and external partnerships by aligning efforts for the common purpose of each student's success
- Willing to share and transfer knowledge with others



DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN

OVERVIEW

The 2023–26 Pinellas County Schools (PCS) District Strategic Plan (DSP) was Board-approved in September 2023 and provides clear direction for strategic improvement areas that will accelerate the district and student success over the next three years. These high-leverage areas of focus, in alignment with the district’s vision, mission, and core values, guide the continuous improvement efforts of schools and district departments. Further, the DSP is developed alongside the budget to ensure resources are prioritized and aligned with the initiatives that support the district goals.

The PCS District Strategic Plan can be accessed online:
www.pcsb.org/strategicplan



MONITORING

The district monitors each objective by utilizing the Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) process. District departments develop targeted, cross-functional action plans to support the attainment of each objective. Interdepartmental teams monitor the DSP by:

- clearly defining strategies;
- planning and allocating supports and resources needed for implementation;
- regularly monitoring key performance indicators; and
- adjusting strategies, supports and/or resources to meet student, family, school, and department needs.

In support of the DSP, each school engages in a continuous improvement process through a School Improvement Plan (SIP). As schools build their SIPs, site-based teams review current progress, develop strategies, set goals, and create action plans to support growth.

QUARTER 2 UPDATE

This update outlines actions and progress toward each strategic priority and objective within the DSP from July 2024 through December 2024. Each page highlights the work of the district by objective and includes:

- Strategies in Action,
- Fast Facts,
- Presentations of Progress (if applicable), and
- Communication Corner (if applicable).

This update report shares the district’s progress toward its goals with all stakeholders. Additionally, stakeholders can access the district’s progress on each objective through a public [DSP community dashboard](#) on the PCS website.



QUARTER 2 UPDATE

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



Progress: July 2024 - December 2024



OBJECTIVE 1 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Middle School Innovators of Future Cities

The second districtwide **Future Cities competition** challenged middle school students with designing a sustainable floating city set 100 years in the future. Participants incorporated two innovative strategies into their cities to ensure residents' health and safety. Students **applied STEM knowledge** to build a city model and showcased their **researching, writing, and public speaking** skills to a panel of district leaders, who facilitated a dynamic question-and-answer session with each team. Twelve teams competed, **doubling** last year's **participation**. The 2024-25 champion is Largo Middle School, with Safety Harbor Middle School as runner-up.

Experiential Learning in Social Studies

Social Studies is incorporating more dynamic, **experiential learning** for students. Schools across all grade levels engaged students in various **mock elections** to reinforce democratic concepts leading up to the November presidential election. Students participated in elections ranging from voting for the best school lunch to class elections and, in high school, a statewide student mock election. Additionally, the **Model UN Competition**, which deepens students' understanding of world affairs through **simulations**, expanded significantly in middle schools, with **participation increasing by nine percent**. All middle schools also have teams participating in **local History Day competitions** in the second semester.

FAST FACTS



Arts Achievements

More than **1,600 student artworks** were submitted for district exhibitions in the first semester.

In its third year, **Ignite Youth Choir** participation continued to increase, with enrollment reaching **110 students from 37 schools**.



Learning Beyond the Classroom

In the first semester, over **6,500 students** across all grade levels engaged in enriching learning experiences through **100 district and referendum funded field trips**.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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

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

COMMUNICATION CORNER

[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](#)

[Seven Pinellas teams qualify for the FIRST® LEGO® Regional Champs](#)



QUARTER 2 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 - December 2024



OBJECTIVE 2 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Pinellas Early Literacy Initiative (PELI)

Teachers continue to receive **specialized resources** designed to **enhance early literacy strategies** and instructional methods. This customized support, which includes **modeling** lessons and side-by-side **coaching within the classroom**, helps teachers implement effective literacy practices, ultimately improving student outcomes beginning in the primary grades.

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.

STAR Reading for First Grade Success

All PCS first grade students are taking the STAR Reading assessment for all three progress monitoring periods to **increase their exposure to the rigor of the state-required year-end test**. This proactive approach has led to a significantly **higher participation rate** in PM2 than the statewide rate of 60%. Despite the increased rigor and loss of nine instructional days due to hurricanes, PCS first graders achieved a 41% proficiency rate in PM2, just 1 percentage point below the state average, indicating they are well-prepared and likely to meet or exceed the state on the PM3 assessment.

FAST FACTS



Outperforming the State on STAR

PCS **kindergarten** and **second grade** students **outperformed the state** in PM2 by nine percentage points and three percentage points, respectively.



Voluntary Prekindergarten

During the initial enrollment period from November 21 to December 9, **over 1,300 applications** were received for **Pre-K3 and VPK**, with the second enrollment period opening in February.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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

[ChangeMakers Presentation, September 2024](#)

COMMUNICATION CORNER

[New Worlds Reading Initiative](#)

[Mark your calendar for the prekindergarten application period](#)



QUARTER 2 UPDATE

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



Progress: **July 2024 - December 2024**



OBJECTIVE 3 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

PCS Seniors Surpass State on Fall SAT

In October, PCS offered 12th-grade students the opportunity to take the digital SAT during school at no cost. PCS students who participated in the fall in-school SAT **outperformed their peers statewide in all categories**.

Specifically, **PCS exceeded the state average** of students who **met both** the English and Math benchmarks **by five percentage points**. Further, **60% of PCS 12th-graders** met the **English** benchmark on the SAT, surpassing all Florida students (51%) and **international** test-takers (55% of students globally).

Success in New Dual Enrollment Offerings

PCS began offering **SLS 1301 - Career and Life Planning**, in partnership with St. Petersburg College, 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. **Nearly 88%** of students in the SLS 1301 course successfully completed the course.

FAST FACTS



Bright Futures Scholarships

Bright Futures Scholarships awarded to PCS graduates who qualified for **free and reduced lunch** **increased by 36%** for the class of 2024 compared to the prior year.



Career Dual Enrollment Participation

Nearly **950 high school students** participated in **career dual enrollment** through Pinellas Technical College during the first semester.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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

COMMUNICATION CORNER

[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](#)

[Richard O. Jacobson Students Host Dog Wash](#)

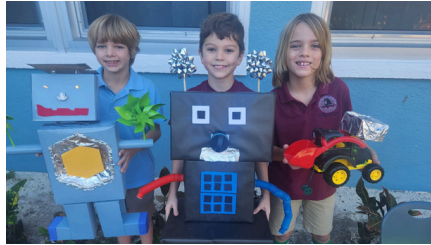


QUARTER 2 UPDATE

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



Progress: July 2024 - December 2024



OBJECTIVE 4 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

PCS Graduation Rate Exceeds State Average

Pinellas County Schools' graduation rate increased to **91.5%**, **outperforming the state** graduation rate of 89.7%. This **ranks PCS fourth** among Florida's largest public school districts and **third** in the **Tampa Bay area**. The nearly **four percentage point increase** from last year marks a growth of over 20 percentage points since 2013.

Data Analytics Dashboard for Teachers

The district has successfully developed and launched a **Data Analytics Dashboard** for leaders, with continuous updates to enhance its functionality. The latest feature is a **dedicated teacher view** that enables teachers to analyze data and pinpoint standards and focus areas for **both enrichment and intervention**, ensuring instruction meets each student's unique needs.

FAST FACTS



PCS Excels in ELA PM2

PCS **outperformed** its **previous results** and the **state average** in English Language Arts (ELA) PM2 compared to the 2023-24 school year.



Graduates' Acceleration

The class of 2024 had the **largest number** of graduates **earning acceleration** credits.

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](#)

[Instructional Calendar, October 2024](#)

COMMUNICATION CORNER

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

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

[Pinellas County Schools Graduation Rate Rises to 91.5%](#)



QUARTER 2 UPDATE

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: SAFE AND RESPECTFUL CLIMATE AND CULTURE OBJECTIVE 5: BUILD POSITIVE, CARING CULTURES OF LEARNING IN EVERY CLASSROOM AND SCHOOL



Progress: July 2024 - December 2024



OBJECTIVE 5 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Supports for Teachers in the Classroom

Professional development has been provided to staff on implementing systems for students with significant behavior needs in self-contained classrooms. This **training** has been followed by **coaching in classrooms**, along with resources created by specialists and instructional staff developers to support the system and tangible reinforcers.

Digital Responsibility Skills in Schools

In the first semester, 92% of schools delivered **digital responsibility lessons** to students in the fall. Two additional lessons are planned for the spring semester. Further, a digital responsibility session will be featured at the **student leadership summit**, and a student **digital ambassador academy** is being planned for the summer.

Care for Every Classroom

Tyrone Middle, Disston Academy and Lealman Innovation Academy came together to welcome Gulf Beaches Elementary colleagues, students and families impacted by the hurricanes. At the same time, Walsingham Elementary, Southern Oak Elementary and Osceola Fundamental High opened their doors to those from Madeira Beach Fundamental.

FAST FACTS



Mental Health and Well-Being

Six elementary sites (12 classrooms) and two middle schools have implemented calming corners designed to help students **regulate their emotions** and behavior while **remaining in the classroom**.



PCS PATHS Student Achievement

The PATHS program celebrated its first **early graduation**. Initially considering dropping out, the student **credited the PATHS program** for feeling **empowered**, being **employed**, and considering enrollment in **higher education**.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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

[Mental Health Plan Update, July 2024](#)

[Digital Citizenship Campaign, July 2024](#)

[Chronic Absenteeism, July 2024](#)

COMMUNICATION CORNER

[Start with Hello Week](#)

[Students Power Up Learning](#)

[Seminole Students Give Back to Our Community](#)



QUARTER 2 UPDATE

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: SAFE AND RESPECTFUL CLIMATE AND CULTURE OBJECTIVE 6: MAINTAIN SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENTS



Progress: July 2024 - December 2024



OBJECTIVE 6 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Emergency Response Technology

The school board approved the acquisition of **wearable crisis alert badges** for all district staff. These badges will link to the PCS Schools Police Operations Center, county 9-1-1, and other local emergency dispatch centers. The badges are designed to be activated solely during critical incidents to initiate lockdowns and emergency responses.

Threat Management Enhancements

Schools have received **additional training and support** for the systematic use of the district's threat management planning and communication platform. These measures have **improved efficiency** in meeting regulatory requirements.

Additionally, training has expanded for both district and school-based threat management teams. This enhanced training aims to better equip teams to **identify warning signs** of concerning behaviors and potential threats to school safety.

FAST FACTS



Collaboration for Safe Schools

Quarterly meetings between the **sheriff's office and district leaders** are held to enhance school safety.



Post-Hurricane Safety Repairs

Following the hurricanes, all school **safety infrastructures** were assessed and repaired to ensure the continued safety of students and staff.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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

[Mental Health Plan Update, July 2024](#)

[Safety and Security Annual Report, October 2024](#)

[Crisis Alert Wearable Solution, December 2024](#)

COMMUNICATION CORNER

[Safety Starts with Me](#)



QUARTER 2 UPDATE

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: EQUITY WITH EXCELLENCE FOR ALL OBJECTIVE 7: ELIMINATE GAPS IN OPPORTUNITY, ACCESS AND ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS



Progress: July 2024 - December 2024



OBJECTIVE 7 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Boys and Guys Read Expansion

The Boys Read and Guys Read Book Battles aim to narrow the gender gap in reading by engaging boys in books aligned with their interests. Guys Read **expanded** to middle schools this year, with **16 middle schools** participating and a total of **101 schools** competing.

Data-Driven Instruction

Teachers utilize the Data Analytics Dashboard to quickly identify **trends in student growth**. The dashboard's visual graphics and data filters allow teachers to **analyze and identify student-specific** performance and **needs**, ensuring **tailored instruction** for each student, whether for enrichment or intervention.

Graduation Rate

The graduation rate for subgroups **outpaced the state**:

Black Students

- **PCS: 85.1%** | FL: 85.3%

Economically Disadvantaged

- **PCS: 86.7%** | FL: 86.2%

English Learners

- **PCS: 90.7%** | FL: 80.7%

Exceptional Student Education (ESE)

- **PCS: 87.3%** | FL: 86.8%

Hispanic Students

- **PCS: 91.6%** | FL: 89%

FAST FACTS



Growth Across All Subgroups

PCS continues to demonstrate growth in student performance. **All subgroups demonstrated progress in ELA and Math** between the FAST PM1 and PM2 assessments.



Elevating Excellence for All

Black student participation in Elevating Excellence **increased by 77%** compared to spring 2024.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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

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

[School Improvement Plans, August 2024](#)

[Instructional Calendar, October 2024](#)

COMMUNICATION CORNER

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

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

[Pinellas County Schools Graduation Rate Rises to 91.5%](#)



QUARTER 2 UPDATE

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: EQUITY WITH EXCELLENCE FOR ALL OBJECTIVE 8: ACCELERATE PROGRESS OF THE DISTRICT BRIDGING THE GAP PLAN



Progress: July 2024 - December 2024



OBJECTIVE 8 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Goal 1: Graduation Rate

In the first semester of the 2024-25 school year, the on-track for graduation rate for Black students **increased by nearly 18%** compared to the previous year.

Goal 2: Academic Achievement

In the first semester, the minority achievement officer visited **56 schools** to discuss the Bridging the Gap (BTG) plan and conduct **campus walkthroughs** and visited **25 priority schools** multiple times to provide specific support for BTG.

Goal 4: Responding to Student Behavior

Non-exclusionary disciplinary actions following office discipline referrals increased by 26% compared to the first semester of 2023-2024. Examples of these actions include parent shadowing, parent contact, verbal reprimand, guidance counseling, behavior contracts, and parent conferences.

Goal 6: Talent Acquisition

PCS established a **recruitment and retention professional learning community**, which sparked the development of **new ideas to support college interns** during their **final internships** in Transformation Zone elementary schools.

FAST FACTS



Goal 3: Rigorous Coursework

42% of Black students enrolled in **Advanced Placement courses** are also participating in the AVID elective, which offers **academic support for their rigorous coursework**.



Goal 5: ESE Identification

Behavior specialists were trained to support **various instructional and behavioral intervention tiers** in an effort to **reduce Emotional/Behavioral Disability (EBD) referrals** among Black students.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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

[BTG End of Year Update, December 2024](#)

[Bridging the Gap \(BTG\) Plan Website](#)



QUARTER 2 UPDATE

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



Progress: July 2024 - December 2024



OBJECTIVE 9 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Support for Teacher Certification

Alternative certification teachers have access to a **streamlined process** for personalized, **one-on-one assistance** throughout the certification process. **Mentors** provide consistent support to **first-year alternative certification teachers** and those in the **PCS transition to teaching** program.

PCS Teacher Apprenticeship Program Awarded State Grant

The **PCS teacher apprenticeship program** received the state **Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant** of **\$185,000** in late fall 2024. This grant offers PCS funding to offset the implementation cost of the teacher apprenticeship program.

PCS Honors Outstanding Staff

Andrew Tremblay, Head Plant Operator at Tarpon Springs Middle School, was honored as the **2024-2025 PCS Support Employee of the Year**. The Support Employee of the Year semi-finalists and finalists were recognized at a December awards luncheon. Additionally, the **top ten Teacher of the Year finalists** were celebrated with surprise visits from Superintendent Hendrick, executive leadership, administrators, and family members.

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 **4,000 staff** who received a **PCS Praise recognition** from colleagues.



Salary Increases

All PCS employees were awarded an average **salary increase** between **3% and 4%**.

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

[PCS and PESPA Reach Tentative Salary Agreement](#)

[PCS and PCTA Reach a Tentative Agreement for 2024-2025](#)

[Inspiring Teachers, The IT Factor Series](#)

[Pinellas County Schools earns top honors as Family Friendly Workplace](#)

[District celebrates 133 Teachers of the Year](#)

[Support Employee of the Year](#)



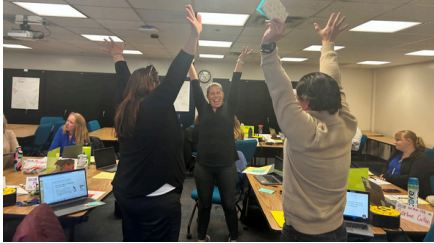
QUARTER 2 UPDATE

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: POSITIVE STAFF EXPERIENCES

OBJECTIVE 10: INVEST IN ALL STAFF THROUGH CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



Progress: July 2024 - December 2024



OBJECTIVE 10 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Job-Embedded Professional Learning

School staff receive **job-embedded professional learning** through PLCs and learning walks, focusing on classroom management, the Five Essentials of Effective Instruction, and Strategy Walks. This approach **promotes collaboration and the immediate application** of these strategies to enhance teaching and learning.

Teacher Mentoring Program

The new teacher mentor program provides specific training for both new and continuing lead mentors. The program includes **increased salary supplements** for mentors, new topics in **monthly meetings**, and **site visits**, particularly to high-turnover schools, to support schools, mentors, and new and early career teachers.

FAST FACTS



Adult Learning Training

Over 1,000 staff have participated in the Skilled Facilitator Essentials course and **92%** of participants **would recommend** the course.



Professional Learning Catalog

The professional learning catalog has been **audited**, and an **employee survey** will be conducted in the spring to ensure the catalog is updated to **align with stakeholder needs** and improve student outcomes.

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](#)



QUARTER 2 UPDATE

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5: STRONG CONNECTIONS AND COMMUNICATION OBJECTIVE 11: DEEPEN AUTHENTIC ENGAGEMENT WITH FAMILIES DISTRICTWIDE



Progress: July 2024 - December 2024



OBJECTIVE 11 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Families Experience PCS Offerings

Throughout the third annual **Experience PCS** event, **over 4,000** students, families, and community members were immersed in activities that showcased the **variety of student learning opportunities** offered throughout Pinellas County Schools. Highlights included interactive STEM activities, a chili cookoff, a soccer tournament, a chess match, musical performances, and a creative chalk art contest.

Engaging Families Through Volunteering

The number of **active volunteers** increased to **21,486**, reflecting **11% growth** compared to the first quarter. Following this influx, PCS introduced a **new volunteer orientation** to provide incoming volunteers with enhanced onboarding.

A new **volunteer registration campaign** **launched** in November, providing an enhanced opportunity to recruit volunteers and prospective mentors during the Experience PCS event.

FAST FACTS



Great American Teach-In

The community rallied for education after back-to-back hurricanes, dedicating nearly **82,500 hours** to November's **Great American Teach-In**. Speakers from various professions engaged students in an inspiring and fun day of **career exploration** activities.



Volunteering for Student Success

Currently, there is **one volunteer for every four students**, reflecting a strong commitment from the community to support student success.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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

COMMUNICATION CORNER

[ESOL Community Resource Fair](#)

[PCS hosts the Great American Teach-In](#)

[Robert Walker Volunteers at Carwise Middle](#)

[Families Lunch with Students at Seminole Middle](#)



QUARTER 2 UPDATE

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5: STRONG CONNECTIONS AND COMMUNICATION OBJECTIVE 12: LEVERAGE PARTNERSHIPS THAT SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS



Progress: July 2024 - December 2024



OBJECTIVE 12 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Hurricane Relief

PCS partners quickly mobilized to support students, staff, and schools following Hurricanes Helene and Milton. The **Juvenile Welfare Board, YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg, and R'Club** provided essential **childcare services at no cost** for Gulf Beaches Elementary and Madeira Beach Fundamental families, while the school schedules were disrupted. The **Pinellas Education Foundation** launched a Hurricane Relief Campaign, **raising \$1.6M** to provide critical support. These funds **assisted over 500 PCS employees** affected by the storms, supplied **bulk school supplies for displaced students**, and helped replace **personal items lost by teachers** in damaged classrooms.

Voters Approve Tax Referendum for Schools

Pinellas County voters **approved the PCS Referendum**, continuing their support since 2004. The current referendum expires on June 30, with the new cycle starting July 1, 2025. The updated referendum will **adjust the millage rate to 1.0 mill and requires independent oversight**. The funds will be allocated to preserve **reading, music, and art** in schools, provide updated **technology**, and recruit and retain quality staff by **increasing teacher salary** supplements and **adding salary** supplements for **support staff**, including nurses and bus drivers.

FAST FACTS



Partners in Action

All middle schools have hands-on learning experiences for students in each grade through partnerships with **Great Explorations and ARK Education Initiative**.



School Board Legislative Platform

The school board published its **annual legislative platform** outlining key education issues to support PCS students and staff. This platform informs discussions with the state legislature.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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

[School Board Legislative Platforms, December 2024](#)

COMMUNICATION CORNER

[Referendum Flyer 2024](#)

[Referendum Video 2024](#)

[Pinellas County Schools Referendum 2024](#)

[ChangeMakers: Champions of Education](#)

[Independent committee sees Referendum funds in action at Gibbs High](#)

[City of St. Pete Employees commit to mentoring PCS students](#)

[Voters approve the Pinellas County Schools Referendum](#)

[Men in the Making kicks off 10th year](#)

[PCS Partners with the Tampa Bay Rowdies at Experience PCS](#)



QUARTER 2 UPDATE

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5: STRONG CONNECTIONS AND COMMUNICATION OBJECTIVE 13: DELIVER ENGAGING AND CONSISTENT COMMUNICATIONS TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS



Progress: July 2024 - December 2024



OBJECTIVE 13 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Community Connections

During Hurricanes Helene and Milton, PCS **maintained regular communication with families and staff**, using an automated messaging system to send a total of 18 phone calls, 18 texts, and 27 emails to approximately **150,000 parents and 15,000 staff**. Community updates were shared across **multiple platforms**, including the district website, social media, and local media. Communication strategies for the schools most impacted by the storms included community meetings, school website updates, signage, phone calls, and bilingual messaging to families.

Strategic Plan Community Dashboard

The district introduced the **Strategic Plan Community Dashboard**, an interactive online tool that presents complex data clearly and visually. This tool helps stakeholders understand and **track the progress** of district objectives. **Quarterly reports** further enhance the dashboard by detailing the **key strategies and initiatives** driving the outcomes.

FAST FACTS



Engaging with Stakeholders

District leadership conducted over **15 in-person meetings** with stakeholder groups from **schools affected by the hurricanes**. Additionally, MBFS families and staff continue to receive **weekly email updates** about their campus restoration.



PCS Website Redesign

PCS conducted a **community website survey** to gather feedback on the current website's usage and navigation. The survey received nearly **1,200 responses**. A focus group of community volunteers is being created to inform the new website.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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

[Listen and Learn, July 2024](#)

[Listen and Learn, September 2024](#)

[PCS Community Listen and Learn Proposal, December 2024](#)

COMMUNICATION CORNER

[Finding Joy Podcast](#)

[AHA Moments Podcast: Conditions for Learning](#)

[Classic Game of the Week](#)

[District launches Community Dashboard](#)

[PCS Alumni returns home to teach](#)

Connect with us!



en Español



QUARTER 2 UPDATE

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6: FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OBJECTIVE 14: SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITION STRATEGIES FUNDED BY ESSER/ARP



Progress: July 2024 - December 2024



OBJECTIVE 14 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

**Updated annually in the MidYear and Annual Report.*

State Monitoring of Federal Funds

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) recently **completed a monitoring audit** of federal ESSER II and CARES funding, with **zero findings** reported. The **auditors highlighted** several areas where PCS demonstrated **best practices**.

PCS is committed to **applying the insights** gained from this monitoring session to ensure best practices are **consistently implemented across all grants**.

ESSER/ARP Drawdown

All ESSER/ARP funds allocated to non-charter schools were **successfully utilized** within the designated timeframe, meeting the September 2024 deadline

FAST FACTS



Read Across Pinellas

The Read Across Pinellas (RAP) tutoring program, designed for children in kindergarten and first grade, was **successfully transitioned** from ESSER/ARP grants to referendum funding in 2023-24.



Sustained Operational Activities

PCS has **transitioned** projects funded by ESSER/ARP grants out of use or to the **operating budget** (e.g., cost of substitutes, PCS Connects, sanitation).

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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

COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

[PCS students exploring the STEM of flying!](#)

[PCS students explore the 3D printing at Summer Camp](#)

[Doggie Daycare at Summer Camp](#)

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



QUARTER 2 UPDATE

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6: FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OBJECTIVE 15: INCREASE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION



Progress: July 2024 - December 2024



OBJECTIVE 15 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Routing and Communication Systems

PCS is developing a new **bus routing system** to **improve efficiency** in route planning, management, and reporting. The system will automatically adjust routes based on student absences and use GPS data to eliminate unused stops. Training will begin in the third quarter, and the system will be **piloted** during the **spring semester**. An accompanying **parent notification app** will be **piloted** alongside the routing system. In the meantime, **parent communication** methods regarding transportation have been **streamlined** to provide more **accurate and timely updates** to families.

Transportation for Hurricane Evacuations

During **Hurricanes Helene and Milton**, PCS deployed approximately **100 bus drivers per day** to assist with evacuations, **transporting 900 community members** to and from shelters during **Helene** and **2,200** during **Milton**.

FAST FACTS



PCS **eliminated** the school bus driver **deficit** and currently employs enough drivers for each route.



PCS **expanded transportation** to include routes for **before-care** to accommodate the **relocation** of the Madeira Beach Fundamental campus and the **disrupted school schedules** caused by the hurricanes.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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

[Proclamation Recognizing School Bus Safety Week, October 2024](#)

[School Bus Drivers with Safe Driving Records, October 2024](#)

COMMUNICATION CORNER

[School Bus Safety Tips](#)

[Transportation FAQs](#)

[Transportation Adds 20 Electric Buses to Their Fleet](#)

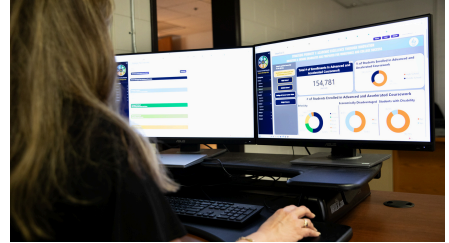


QUARTER 2 UPDATE

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6: FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OBJECTIVE 16: PROVIDE STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES, TECHNOLOGY, AND RESOURCES



Progress: July 2024 - December 2024



OBJECTIVE 16 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Educational Facilities Planning

Each school completed the Educational Suitability Assessment (ESA), **evaluating all learning spaces**, including arts and STEM areas, to assess their **effectiveness in meeting the instructional needs** of the teacher and students. The findings from the ESA will inform the district's **five-year capital plan**.

Facilities' Names Honor PCS History

The school board received **225 community suggestions** and approved new names for several facilities:

Walsingham Oaks K-8 will open in fall 2025, after combining Southern Oak and Walsingham elementary schools into a K-8 school.

Dr. Michael A. Grego Leadership Institute, which is under construction, is named in honor of the retired PCS superintendent who created the vision for and spearheaded the learning center's development.

Bette Ra Ivey Discovery Center is the name of the Employee Child Care Center, which opened in summer 2024.

FAST FACTS



Campus Hurricane Relief

Hurricanes Helene and Milton impacted several school campuses. In response, PCS has been working closely with **property insurance providers and FEMA** to assess the damage and ensure the **recovery of affected buildings and assets**.



Student Information Systems

The **upgrade to the FOCUS student information system** is underway to ensure **optimal speed, reliability, and efficiency**. Following its deployment, the FOCUS digital enrollment platform will be developed.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROGRESS

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

[Midtown Property Update, August 2024](#)

[Annual Budget, September 2024](#)

[School and Facility Naming Process, October 2024](#)

[Annual Financial Report, November 2024](#)

[Facilities Master Plan, December 2024](#)

COMMUNICATION CORNER

[Community to Name Three Facilities](#)

[Mangrove Bay Ribbon Cutting](#)

[School Board Approves New Names for Three Facilities](#)

