

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](#)

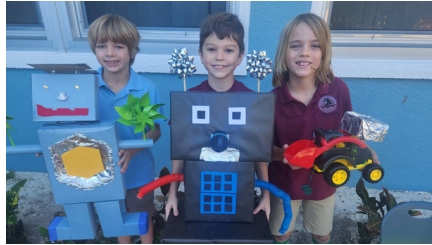


QUARTER 2 UPDATE

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](#)

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

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

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

