

QUARTER 3 UPDATE

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



Progress: July 2024 - March 2025



OBJECTIVE 7 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

New Worlds Reading Events

PCS collaborated with the University of Florida Lastinger Center and the Pinellas Education Foundation to host **12 New Worlds Reading events**. These events provided **over 1,000 books to VPK through fifth grade students** in need of reading support—helping to build home libraries and nurturing a lifelong love of reading and learning.

Career, College and Life Fair

The ESE Career, College and Life Fair attracted over **300 students and family members**. The event featured **nearly 50 community partners** and resources, offering support for students with disabilities in grades 6-12 and Extended Transition programs. This year's fair highlighted **career training, college opportunities, health insurance, and adult day programs**.

Closing the Gap

The district's **Closing the Gap** initiative, in partnership with the Pinellas Education Foundation, aims to **reduce the gender achievement gap in reading** by training teachers on research-based, gender-differentiated instructional strategies. Each year, a school is **highlighted for its success in narrowing the achievement gap and implementing effective, innovative practices**.

FAST FACTS



Boys Read & Guys Read

The district **Elementary Boys Read** competition welcomed 272 students representing 68 elementary schools. The inaugural **Middle School Guys Read** competition featured 64 competitors from 16 schools, and the **High School Guys Read** competition hosted 56 participants from 14 schools.



Maria Edmonds Awards

PCS honored 450 students at the 8th Annual Maria Edmonds Hispanic Achievement Awards, and five students were awarded \$1,000 scholarships.

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](#)

[District English Learners Plan, March 2025](#)

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%](#)

[ESOL Community Resource Fair](#)

[ESE Career, College & Life Fair](#)



QUARTER 3 UPDATE

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



Progress: July 2024 - March 2025



OBJECTIVE 8 STRATEGIES IN ACTION

Shirley Proctor Puller Foundation

PCS partnered with the Shirley Proctor Puller Foundation (SPPF) to launch its third site—and second on a PCS campus—expanding programs to boost literacy, leadership, and workforce readiness for youth in south St. Petersburg. Supported by a \$1 million grant from the City of St. Petersburg and additional funding from the Juvenile Welfare Board and the Parallel Foundation, the expanded SPPF programs are expected to serve nearly 300 scholars.

Keys to Manhood

Nearly 200 PCS middle and high school students participated in St. Petersburg College's annual **Keys to Manhood Seminar**, which featured sessions on financial literacy, career and educational planning, and healthy relationships.

Honoring Academic Excellence

PCS recognized the **academic excellence of more than 320 Black students** at two signature events: the 8th Annual **Vyrle Davis Student Achievement Awards** and the 41st Annual **Carwise Awards**. These ceremonies honored top **scholars from elementary, middle, and high schools** in South and North County, respectively. All recognized **high school students maintained weighted GPAs above 4.0**, and a total of **15 seniors were awarded college scholarships**. The Vyrle Davis Awards honor the legacy of the late Vyrle Davis, a 40-year educator and the district's first African American area superintendent. The Carwise Awards pay tribute to Dr. Joseph Carwise, a longtime educator and the first Black member of Clearwater's City Commission, for whom Carwise Middle School is named.

FAST FACTS



Graduation Rate

The percentage of Black seniors **on-track for graduation is 75%**, an **increase of more than 12 percentage points** compared to April 2024.



Rigorous Coursework

93% of Black students who participated in dual enrollment **earned college credit** in Fall 2024.

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](#)

[Bridging the Gap Mid-year Update, March 2025](#)

COMMUNICATION CORNER

[District honors nearly 200 scholars at the annual Carwise Awards ceremony.](#)

[High-achieving students honored at the Vyrle Davis Awards ceremony.](#)

