

## SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY

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**VISION: 100% Student Success**

**MISSION: Educate and Prepare Each Student for College, Career and Life**

PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD 2025

# LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



**PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS IS AN  DISTRICT**

# OUR LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Pinellas County Schools is proud of the success achieved during the 2023-2024 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 2025 Legislative Platform outlines areas to maximize student outcomes and best serve our community.

## Academic Excellence ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION



### OUR GOALS:

Support increased educational innovation by continuing to reduce regulations for public school districts to better align with other K-12 charter, home school and private institutions that also receive state and/or federal funding.

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

Align rules and guidelines for district-operated virtual programs regarding the ability to report FTE beyond the 180-day school year with those already in place for Florida Virtual School.

## Safe & Welcoming SAFE AND WELCOMING SCHOOLS

### OUR GOALS:

Review and revise the campus access guidelines regarding the staffing of gates and building doors to maintain safety and align with school-day operations.

Allocate funding streams that accurately reflect the costs associated with delivering high-quality School Safety and Mental Health services.



## Workforce WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



## Positive Experiences POSITIVE STAFF EXPERIENCES THROUGH FISCAL AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

### OUR GOALS:

Separate allocations for state scholarships and vouchers for parents from the FEFP to ensure transparency regarding public school district funding.

In order to attract and retain staff, increase the flexible funds for general operating dollars (Base Student Allocation) to sufficiently fund the escalating costs of school districts which include employee salaries, benefits, and mandatory employer contributions to the Florida Retirement System. Ensure that dedicated teacher salary funds can be used to increase compensation for experienced teachers.



### OUR GOALS:

Allow rigorous, in-demand Career Technical Industry Certifications to serve as a concordance for high school graduation assessment requirements; concordant certifications to be identified by the Florida Department of Education.

Support a \$750,000 appropriation to support a new, innovative teacher apprenticeship model piloted by Pinellas County Schools (PCS) and St. Petersburg College (SPC) which provides tuition and textbooks, as well as compensation during the apprenticeship period.