



# Polk County Public Schools

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STUDENTS FIRST

## Polk County and Florida Enrollment Trends

- PCPS is now the **seventh largest** school district in Florida, and the **24th largest** school district in the US.
- Following the eighth day count, we were at 98.2% of our projected enrollment of 116,500.
- We are adding students each day at the same rate as the 22-23 school year.
- We expect another influx of students to enroll in December.

# Demographic Data

- Hispanic - 41.1%
- Black/African American - 20.3%
- White - 34%
- Multiracial - 2.7%
- Asian - 1.5%
- Hawaiian Pacific Islander - 0.2%
- American Indian/Alaskan Native - 0.2%
- Economically Disadvantaged - 78.8%
- Homeless - 2.3%
- ELL - 9.7%
- Migrant - 0.6%
- Students with Disabilities - 14.7%

# Hurricane Support and Recovery

# Community Support In a Time of Need

- Public schools are the first to open their doors to serve as shelters in time of need.
- We want to thank the amazing team of dedicated staff in ALL positions that we have across the state who forgo their own needs in service to others.
- Our shelters offer specialized services to our community by virtue of hosting three types of shelters:
  - Medically Fragile Shelter
  - Pet Shelter
  - Traditional Shelter



# Shared Recovery Efforts

- I am proud to share that none of our school districts face the burden of managing post storm recovery efforts alone.
- The shared recovery response across the state has been incredible and continues to demonstrate our servant leadership approach.
- Districts have stepped up to provide:
  - Building materials
  - Custodial staff
  - Trades group staff
  - Supplies (e.g., water, food, clothing, tarps)
- Polk County is thankful for the \$1M appropriation that will allow us to purchase portable (trailer mounted) generators.
- These generators will allow us to:
  - Support our own shelters during a storm
  - Deploy these units to other districts across the state who have had significant disruptions to their local power utilities.

# Ongoing Initiatives

- Enhanced School/Student Safety Initiatives
- Academy, Magnet, and Workforce Improvements
- New School and School Renovation Projects

# School Safety

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# Consolidation of Law Enforcement Supports

The district has moved to consolidate all of its schools under the sheriff's office.

## Benefits:

- Consistency across the district regarding statute enforcement
- Consistency regarding communication and standardization of procedures
- Allows local municipalities to use existing officers to fill open vacancies

All but two agencies were incorporated during the 23-24 school year.

The remaining municipalities will be incorporated in the 24-25 school year.

# Security Enhancements

- The district added walk-through detectors to assist with random searches at all middle and high schools.
  - These are not the single person walk-through models but rather newer technology that allows us to scan larger groups as they enter buildings or attend events.
- Vape Detectors
  - To be installed in all middle and high school restrooms
  - Funded from JUUL litigation settlement

# Academy and Magnet Program Improvements

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# Academy Programs

- Expanding existing high-interest/high-demand programs (e.g., CFAA)
- Created new programs with aligned partnerships
  - Air Traffic Control
  - LPN
  - Medical Assistant
  - Network IT
  - Network Security
  - High School Civics Academy
  - Hospitality Academy
- Created accountability for academy programs (NEW AIP)

# Workforce Development

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# Workforce Enhancements

- Paid internships/externships
- More explicit and direct partnerships
- Feeder/pipeline program development
- Aligning capstone projects to partner with core focus areas and needs

# Focus for 2023-24 and Beyond

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# Additional Priorities

- Improving Academic Outcomes
- Targeting Chronic Absenteeism and Discipline
- Comprehensive Rezoning for K-12
- Maximizing Community Partnerships
- Expanding Early College Options
- Expand Pre-K Learning Center Options