



**PLAN Pinellas LIFELONG LEARNING  
SUPPLEMENTAL**

# LIFELONG LEARNING SUPPLEMENTAL [ LL ]

Systems interaction is a guiding framework of PLANPinellas. Our education system affects, and is affected by, economic, land use, transportation, environmental and other social systems. The Pinellas County School Board is not only the primary provider of public school education in the County, it is also the County's largest employer, and a major trip generator influencing traffic and transportation patterns. In addition to the Pinellas County School Board system, other public and private educational facilities provide opportunities for our citizens to grow and prosper from youth to older adulthood. PLANPinellas seeks to build on previous public educational facilities planning and coordination by incorporating a broader consideration of lifelong education and its relationship to individual and community well-being.

Historically, comprehensive planning as it has related to education has focused on coordination with the Pinellas County School Board and municipalities, with respect to school siting, capacity, and shared use of facilities. Comprehensive Plan amendments and an Interlocal Agreement for Public Educational Facilities Siting were adopted in 1996 to establish a process for the County, local governments, and the School Board to review and approve proposed educational facility sites. A 2003 Interlocal Agreement solidified the framework for sharing of information relating to school site selection, student enrollment, construction, collocation, conflict resolution and School Board participation on the Local Planning Agency.

In 2005, the Florida Legislature mandated school concurrency to ensure the availability of sufficient public school seats for the estimated number of students prior to the approval of residential plats/site plans and the consideration of the impact of land use decisions on school capacity. With the School Board and participating municipalities, Pinellas County developed a Public School Facilities Element (PSFE) and amended the original Interlocal Agreement to implement school concurrency. In 2007, Pinellas County adopted the PSFE and entered a revised Public Schools Interlocal Agreement with the School Board and participating local governments.

In 2011, statutory requirements were revised to remove the mandate for school concurrency. The School Planning Workgroup, which is a multijurisdictional group consisting of local government planners and School District staff, reviewed the legislative changes and options relating to school concurrency. The Workgroup recommended to the Pinellas Schools Collaborative (established by the Public Schools Interlocal Agreement and consisting of elected representatives from the School Board and each workgroup member's respective jurisdiction) that the school concurrency be discontinued. The Collaborative agreed with the Workgroup's recommendation to eliminate school concurrency and committed to continue collaboration and coordination through the Interlocal Agreement framework.

As of 2021, the Pinellas County Planning Division coordinates with the School Board and municipalities through the Forward Pinellas School Transportation Safety Committee, the School Transportation and Enhanced Pedestrian Safety Committee, and the annual review of the School District's Five Year Facilities Work Program and Plant Survey. This coordination is the primary way adequate infrastructure for schools is ensured.

As of 2021, transportation infrastructure issues related to public schools is addressed through collaboration between the County, Forward Pinellas, the School Board and municipalities. Pedestrian and cycling infrastructure to public and private schools is needed, not only to allow students with no other options to travel to school safely, but to encourage healthy lifestyle habits and reduce the traffic impacts of school transportation on the network.



Prosperous communities are built on the foundation of education. Expanding people’s skills and knowledge prepares local employees and opens opportunities to a wider range of jobs. The County must collaborate with both our public and private partners to ensure our workforce is trained to meet the needs of our local businesses and industries. Connecting people to these opportunities is essential, and how we plan our transportation network is an important consideration for future planning.

The Lifelong Learning Chapter of PLANPinellas continues to address coordination with the School Board and municipalities, while introducing new goals, objectives, and policies aimed at ensuring equitable access to educational facilities and workforce development opportunities for all.

