

Public School Facilities Element & Related Plan Policies

Ordinance 2007-32

The public school system in Pinellas County is based on a countywide district, encompassing all of the municipalities within the County and the unincorporated area.

In 2005, the Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 360, mandating that concurrency be established for public school facilities not granted an exemption. School concurrency requires that a community's adopted level of service standard for public schools is met, or a developer executes a legally binding commitment to provide mitigation proportionate to the demand created by the proposed development, before development orders are issued. The Florida Statutes require that local governments that have exceeded a certain minimum level of growth over the past five years, develop and adopt a Public School Facilities Element (PSFE), which forms the basis for implementing school concurrency and other subjects addressed in the updated Public Schools Interlocal Agreement that was entered into between the School Board, twelve municipalities, and Pinellas County.

In response to this mandate, Pinellas County, together with the School District and all municipalities served by the Pinellas County School District (including St. Pete Beach) that are required to implement school concurrency, began the process of creating a PSFE. A School Planning Workgroup was formed in January 2006 to address this new requirement, and included staff from each affected local government, the School District, and the Pinellas Planning Council. The Pinellas Schools Collaborative was formed from the 1906 Committee that prepared the original Public Schools Interlocal Agreement, which was executed in April 2003. The Collaborative consists of elected officials from Pinellas County, twelve municipalities, and the School Board. Together, the Workgroup and the Collaborative developed the updated Public Schools Interlocal Agreement, agreeing to create one PSFE that each local government would be able to adopt. This use of a single PSFE would ensure that there was consistency throughout the local governments and that development could be tracked countywide, further ensuring that public school facilities would not be adversely affected by additional development and redevelopment. The Workgroup and the Collaborative met numerous times to develop the updated Interlocal Agreement, and later the Element itself.

St. Pete Beach Ordinance 2007-32 establishes the PSFE (a *new* Element within the City's Comprehensive Plan) and modifies policies within the Intergovernmental Coordination and Capital Improvements Elements to address public school facilities, as required by Senate Bill 360 and Section 163.3177 (12), *Florida Statutes*.