



## Community Budget Forum

Like all school districts, Pinellas County Schools has to make difficult decisions in trimming its budget in order to meet the budget shortfall due to insufficient legislative funding. This year, the district's dilemma is compounded by declining student enrollment, a decrease in the tax rolls, and a state-mandated increase in retirement contributions. The district has set up a Community Budget Forum to give community members a chance to weigh in and suggest ways to meet the shortfall without sacrificing student success. Visit the district website, [www.pcsb.org](http://www.pcsb.org) and click on "Community Budget Forum" under PCS News.

## Kindergarten and New Student Registration

To register a new student for the 2010-11 school year, follow these easy steps:

**STEP 1: Find Your Zoned School** Go online, [www.pcsb.org](http://www.pcsb.org), or call Student Assignment, (727) 588-6210.

**STEP 2: Reserve a Seat** Go to your zoned or any nearby school to get a ParentCONNECTxp User ID and Password if you do not already have one for another member of your family. Then log into the Student Reservation System at the school or your home computer.

**STEP 3: Register at Your Child's Zoned School** Visit the assigned school to deliver the required documents (list of documents can be found on the district website).

## Planning to Move?

If you move, you are required to give the school your new phone number and provide proof of residency. To update your address and phone number you will first need to have a ParentCONNECTxp User ID and Password (if you don't already have one for another child in your family), which you can get from your child's school.

Then, you can either go online at home or use a school computer, to log into the Student Reservation System on the district website, [www.pcsb.org](http://www.pcsb.org), using your User ID and Password.

**IMPORTANT** – It is essential that your school has your child's current address. Bus stop information for 2010-11 will be mailed to families based on the address in school files.

## Haul Pass

### (Give "Mom & Dad's Taxi Service" the Summer Off)

Instead of spending your time and money chauffeuring your children around the county this summer, get them a Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Summer Youth Haul Pass. The Haul Pass will allow children ages 18 and under to travel on PSTA buses between May 15 and August 30 for less than \$2.40 per week. Travel is unlimited for regular routes.

Haul Passes may be purchased at PSTA terminals and ticket outlets throughout the county for only \$35. For a list of outlets, routes, or to purchase Haul Passes online, visit [www.PSTA.net](http://www.PSTA.net).



## PCS Portal: Gateway to Information and Learning

Beginning with the 2010-11 school year, Pinellas County Schools will launch a new online system called PCS Portal. The system replaces the present grade book, student information system for attendance and test data, and the current ParentCONNECTxp system.

Parents will be able to participate in educational video lessons, communicate interactively with their child's teacher, and review their child's grades, all with the touch of a button.

Students will log into one site to get real time data on their test scores and assignments by accessing Moodle, an online site where teachers post content, links, files, quizzes, student work and discussion boards.

## Stay Connected

While children are connecting to the world around them, parents can stay informed about the district through the website, [www.pcsb.org](http://www.pcsb.org): Back-to-school information such as: opening and closing times, school bus transportation and school supplies will be made available during the summer.

The district's television station, WPDS-TV14, provides parents with educational programming, school board meetings, and superintendent interviews on Bright House Networks Ch. 614, Verizon Ch. 46 and Knology Ch. 2.

District news is also posted on Twitter. Sign up to follow district news at: [www.twitter.com/pcschools](http://www.twitter.com/pcschools).

**School begins August 24, 2010**

**Remember: Students must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2010 to attend kindergarten.**