

PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

10

CHARTING
PORT ST. LUCIE

DATA & ANALYSIS

September 28, 2026

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CHAPTER 10. PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ELEMENT

I. Introduction

Schools can act as an anchor in the community. They are a symbol of a neighborhood's stability and attract families to the community. They transmit knowledge to new generations, advance knowledge, display the achievements of society, plus bring neighbors together for Parent Teacher Association meetings, school plays, and sporting events. They offer their classrooms and media centers to residents for adult education classes, and community and club meetings. They are key determinants of the quality of life and are valued symbols of community identity and achievement. The entire community benefits from schools. Moreover, the community is often evaluated on the basis of the quality of its schools. The planning process that guides decision-making on school size, location, and programs should therefore be coordinated with the process that guides all community development.

Planning for school facilities is one of the responsibilities of the local School Board. The proper functioning and the best distribution of schools, however, are possible only when school planning is coordinated with the larger process of community planning for growth and change. Even though the Public School Facilities Element is not a mandatory component of the Comprehensive Plan, the City of Port St. Lucie recognizes the need to collaborate with the St. Lucie County School District to address the impacts of growth on school facilities. This Element outlines the current state of school facilities and the future plans of the St. Lucie County School District.

The data and analysis included in this document are designed to inform future decisions and policy adjustments needed to accommodate public school facilities to serve future population growth. It includes an inventory of public schools (high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools) serving city residents, an evaluation of current and future capacity of the facilities, and planned improvements to the school system. Furthermore, the Element emphasizes opportunities for aligning the City's goals, objectives, and policies with the St. Lucie County School Board's plans.

The City of Port St. Lucie and St. Lucie Public Schools have agreements in place for the shared use of facilities. This collaboration supports the mutual use of their facilities and services, benefiting local communities by addressing geographic, economic, and population factors that impact development and public needs. The District and the City own and manage various recreational facilities, including gymnasiums, playgrounds, pools, athletic fields, and recreational areas. This collaboration strengthens the connection between land use planning, development, and the planning for public schools.

II. Inventory & Analysis of the Public School System

This element focuses on the public school system, which includes **traditional** tuition-free schools such as elementary, middle, and high; **charter** schools, which are also tuition-free, public schools but operate under a contract with a school district, granting them more flexibility than traditional public schools in exchange for higher accountability standards; **magnet** schools, which are free, public schools with specialized curricula or programs, focusing on themes like STEM, performing arts, and more, allowing students to choose a school aligned with their interests.; and **virtual** schools which are K-12 schools that meet online. The Florida Department of Education keeps detailed capacity and enrollment data only for the traditional public schools. St. Lucie County maintains date for all other school types.

A. The St. Lucie School System

The public school system in St Lucie County has expanded to meet the needs of growth. A profile of this system is provided in this section.

The St. Lucie School District currently encompasses a total of 51 schools distributed throughout the county, providing educational services to approximately 49,392 students. Of these schools, 27 are situated within the city limits of Port St. Lucie. The distribution of schools across the district and their respective locations are shown in **Map 10-1**. **Table 10-1** lists the schools, their location, the types of institutions, and the grade levels served.

Table 10 - 1: St. Lucie School District Schools

	ADDRESS	CITY
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS		
1. Bayshore Elementary	1661 Bayshore Blvd	PSL
2. Chester A Moore Elementary	827 N 29th St	FP
3. Fairlawn Magnet Elementary	3203 Rhode Island Ave	FP
4. Floresta Elementary	1501 Floresta Dr	PSL
5. Frances K Sweet Elementary	1400 Ave Q	FP
6. Garden City Elementary	2202 Avenue Q	FP
7. Lakewood Park Elementary	7800 Indrio Rd	FP
8. Lawnwood Elementary	1900 S 23rd St	FP
9. Manatee Elementary	1450 Heatherwood Blvd	PSL
10. Mariposa Elementary	2620 Mariposa Ave	PSL
11. Morningside Elementary	2300 Gowin Dr	PSL
12. Parkway Elementary	7000 Selvitz Rd	PSL
13. Rivers Edge Elementary	5600 St James Dr	PSL
14. Savanna Ridge Elementary	6801 Lennard Rd	PSL
15. St Lucie Elementary School	2020 S 13th St	FP
16. Village Green Environmental Studies School	1700 Lennard Rd	PSL
17. Weatherbee Elementary	800 E Weatherbee Rd	FP
18. White City Elementary	905 W 2nd St	FP
19. Windmill Point Elementary	700 Darwin Blvd	PSL
K THROUGH 8 SCHOOLS		

	ADDRESS	CITY
20. Allapattah Flats K-8	12051 NW Copper Creek Dr	PSL
21. Creative Arts Academy of St. Lucie	1100 Delaware Ave	FP
22. Manatee Academy K-8	1450 SW Heatherwood Blvd	PSL
23. Northport K-8 School	250 Floresta Dr	PSL
24. Oak Hammock K-8 School	1251 California Blvd	PSL
25. St Lucie West K-8 School	1501 Cashmere Blvd	PSL
26. West Gate K-8 School	1050 Cashmere Blvd	PSL
MIDDLE SCHOOLS		
27. Dan McCarty Middle School	1201 Mississippi Ave	FP
28. Forest Grove Middle School	3201 S 25th St	FP
29. Southern Oaks Middle School	5500 St James Dr	PSL
30. Southport Middle School	2420 Morningside Dr	PSL
HIGH SCHOOLS		
31. Anglewood Center	1809 Panther Ln	FP
32. College Preparatory Academy of the Treasure Coast	501 NW University Blvd	PSL
33. Delaware Avenue School	2909 Delaware Ave	FP
34. Ft Pierce Central High School	4101 S 25th St	FP
35. Ft Pierce Westwood High School	1801 PantherLn	FP
36. Marine Oceanographic Academy	5801 N Old Dixie Hwy	FP
37. Port St Lucie High School	1201 Jaguar Ln	PSL
38. St Lucie West Centennial High School	1485 Cashmere Blvd	PSL
39. Treasure Coast High School	1000 Darwin Blvd	PSL
MAGNET SCHOOLS		
40. Francis K Sweet Magnet Elementary	1400 Avenue Q	FP
41. Lincoln Park Academy Magnet	1806 Avenue I	FP
42. Samuel S. Gaines Academy of Emerging Technologies	2250 S Jenkins Rd	FP
CHARTER SCHOOLS		
43. Palm Pointe Educational Research School	10680 Academic Way	PSL
44. Imagine Charter School - NAU Campus	4402 SW Yamada Dr	PSL
45. Renaissance Charter K-8	300 NW Cashmere Blvd	PSL
46. Renaissance Charter School at Tradition	10900 Sw Tradition Pkwy	PSL
ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS		
47. Agriscience Education Center	11261 Picos Rd	FP
48. Indian Hills School	1901 S 11th St	FP
49. Dale Cassens School	1905 S 11thSt	FP
50. Mosaic Digital Academy	12051 NW Copper Creek Dr	PSL
51. Performance Based Preparatory Academy	2909 Delaware Ave	FP

Source: St. Lucie County Schools District, 2024

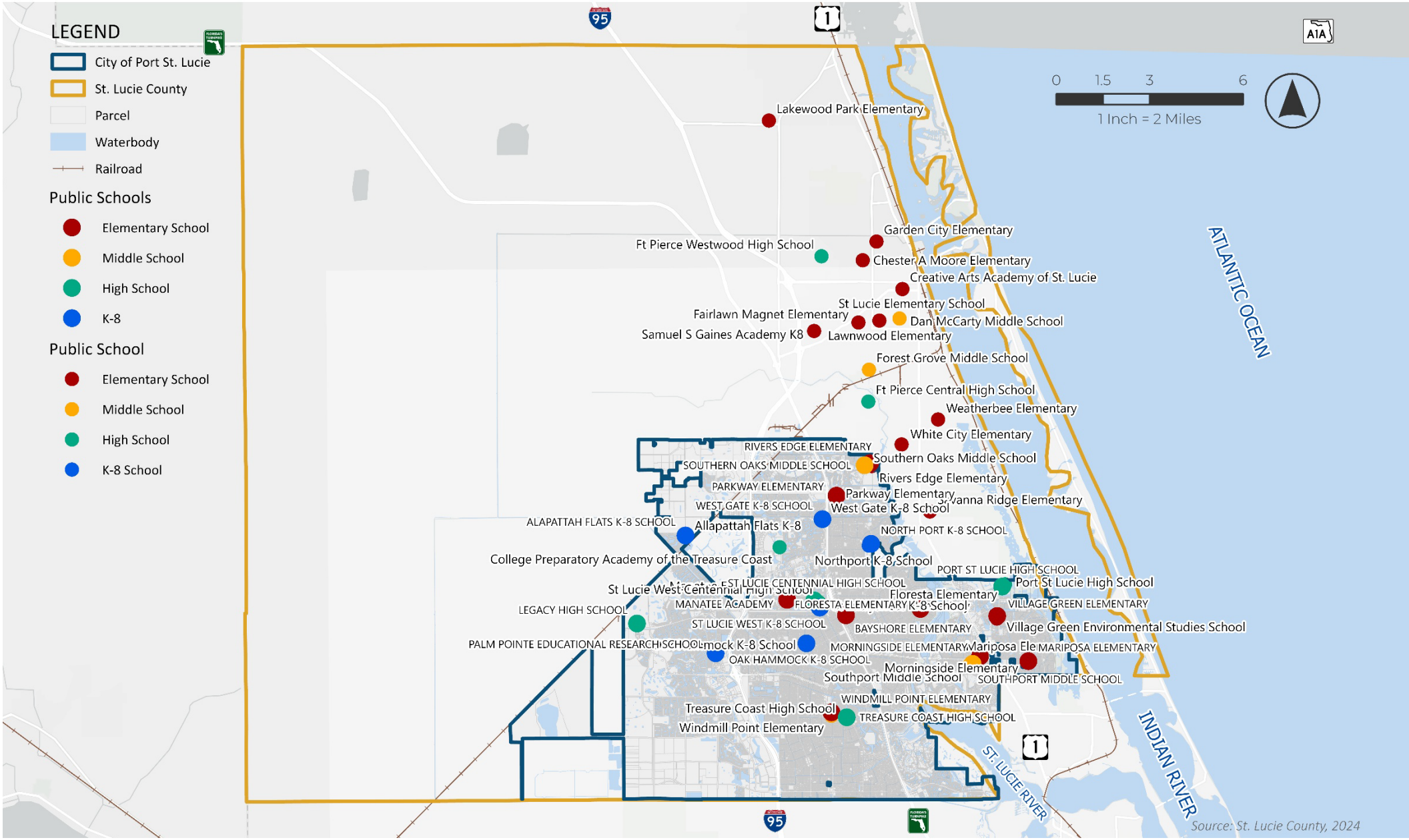
Although the County is divided into enrollment areas, students have the option to apply for schools outside their designated districts. According to Policy 5120 of the St. Lucie County Public Schools Policy Manual, students can request to attend schools in other districts through a waiver of attendance area. This request

is submitted through forms to the Student Assignment Office, with the Superintendent responsible for approving or denying these requests.

Outside of the public and private schools mentioned above, there is also a local community of homeschool students. The population of these students is significant, influencing the demand for resources, educational programs, and gathering spaces such as parks, libraries, and other community services.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2050

MAP 10-1



B. School Enrollment and Capacity

This section outlines the current enrollment and capacity at the various schools serving the city residents. The following terms are used in this section.

- **Florida Inventory of School Houses (FISH)** is the number that the Department of Education/Office of Educational Facility uses to report the capacity of public schools.
- **School capacity** is the total number of students that a school can accommodate, including both permanent and relocatable (temporary) facilities. The calculation considers the number and size of classrooms, the type of educational programs, and the utilization rates of the spaces (FL DEO, FISH, 2025). The St. Lucie County School Board is responsible for annually updating the Florida Inventory of School Houses capacity, which is applied consistently across all municipalities in St. Lucie County and the School District.
- **Permanent capacity** refers to the number of students that can be accommodated in the permanent (non-relocatable facilities) of a school. It excludes any temporary or portable classrooms and focuses on the permanent structures.
- **Year-round capacity** refers to the number of students that a school can accommodate throughout the entire year, considering the use of facilities during all seasons. This includes adjustments for any variations in student attendance patterns and the utilization of spaces during different times of the year.
- **Utilization factor** is a measure of how efficiently a school's physical space is being used. It is calculated by comparing the actual number of students enrolled to the school's capacity. This factor helps determine whether a school is underutilized, overutilized, or operating at optimal capacity.
- **Percentage utilization** is the ratio of the actual number of students enrolled to the school's capacity, expressed as a percentage. This metric helps determine how effectively a school's physical space is being used.
- **Capital Outlay Full-time Equivalent (COFTE)** is a measure used to project the number of students for whom capital outlay funds are needed. This metric helps plan and allocate resources for school construction, renovation, and maintenance based on current and anticipated student enrollment.
- **Available capacity (surplus)** is the difference between the school's total capacity and the actual student enrollment. This metric indicates how many additional students a school can accommodate without exceeding its capacity.

Table 10-2 shows the capacity and utilization factors for public schools in St. Lucie County as presented in the School District's 2024-2025 Work Plan. The data reveals that Village Green Environmental Studies, Oak Hammock K-8 School, Fort Pierce Central High School, and Treasure Coast High School are currently facing overcrowding, with utilization rates over 100%.

The School Board's projections for the 2028-2029 school year indicate that Bayshore Elementary, Weatherbee Elementary, and West Gate K-8 will also exceed capacity.

There are several new schools planned to open in the near future. Legacy High School is scheduled to open in August 2025 at 14505 SW Crosstown Parkway in Port St. Lucie's Tradition neighborhood. The $80 million construction project will include an extension of Crosstown Parkway, providing direct access to the school. This will be the first new high school in the area in 20 years, and it is expected to ease overcrowding at Fort

Pierce Central High School and St. Lucie West Centennial Senior High. The capacity of Legacy, once it opens, will be 2,000. **Map 10-2** depicts the current and proposed high school proximity zones once Legacy High School opens in the Fall of 2025.

Western Grove and Southern Grove, both K-8 schools, are expected to open in the upcoming years. Western Grove is scheduled to open in the 2026-2027 school year, while Southern Grove is planned to open in the 2030-2031 school year. Additionally, the School District is expanding Village Green Environmental Studies from an elementary school to a K-8 school, with an estimated completion of 2029.

The St. Lucie County School District operates five non-traditional schools, as listed in **Table 10-1**. These schools and programs are available to students countywide. The Mosaic Digital Academy is a virtual program. The Performance-Based Preparatory Academy and Dale Cassens Education Complex are in-person schools located in Fort Pierce, Florida.

St. Lucie County also offers Magnet School programs countywide, although none are located within the City. These programs include the Creative Arts Academy of St. Lucie (K-8), Fairlawn Elementary (K-5), F.K. Sweet Elementary (K-5), Fort Pierce Westwood Academy, Lincoln Park Academy (6-12), and Samuel S. Gaines Academy of Emerging Technologies (K-8).

The non-traditional schools have adequate capacities.

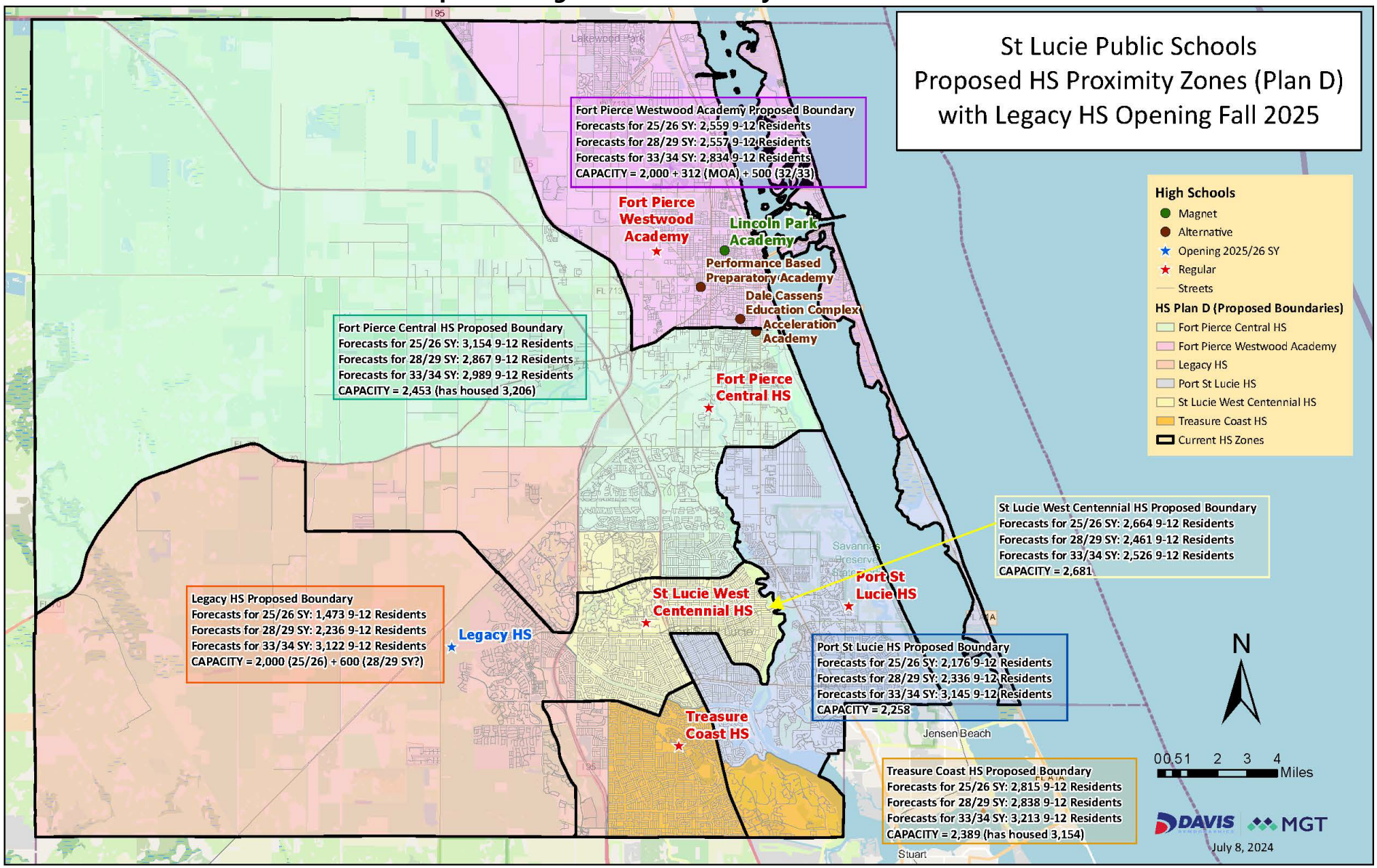
Table 10 - 2: Inventory of St. Lucie County Public Schools

Location	2024-25 Satisfactory Student Stations	Actual 2024-25 FISH Capacity	Actual 2023-24 COFTE	Actual 2024-25 Utilization	Projected 2028-29 COFTE	Projected 2028-29 Utilization
White City Elementary	637	637	499	78%	528	83%
Fairlawn Elementary	713	713	644	90%	681	96%
Creative Arts Academy of St. Lucie	985	886	470	53%	497	56%
Lawnwood Elementary	825	825	776	94%	820	99%
Saint Lucie Elementary	818	818	615	75%	650	79%
Dan McCarty School	1,401	1,260	716	57%	757	60%
Frances K Sweet Elementary	777	777	370	48%	391	50%
Garden City Early Learning Academy	727	727	43	6%	45	6%
Chester A Moore Elementary School	805	805	422	52%	446	55%
Lincoln Park Academy	2,218	1,996	1,543	77%	1,631	82%
Fort Pierce Westwood Senior High	2,004	1,903	1,548	81%	1,637	86%
Morningside Elementary	752	752	673	89%	711	95%
Lakewood Park Elementary	961	961	639	66%	676	70%
Floresta Elementary	741	741	653	88%	691	93%
Bayshore Elementary	891	891	845	95%	893	100%
Northport K-8 School	1,851	1,665	1,213	73%	1,282	77%
Windmill Point Elementary	1,206	1,206	1,010	84%	1,068	89%
Village Green Environmental Studies	545	545	566	104%	598	110%
Port Saint Lucie Senior High	2,377	2,258	1,641	73%	1,736	77%
Parkway Elementary	765	765	526	69%	556	73%
Dale Cassens Educational Complex	500	500	174	35%	183	37%
Southport Middle	1,334	1,200	869	72%	919	77%
Mariposa Elementary	1,002	1,002	753	75%	796	79%

Location	2024-25 Satisfactory Student Stations	Actual 2024-25 FISH Capacity	Actual 2023-24 COFTE	Actual 2024-25 Utilization	Projected 2028-29 COFTE	Projected 2028-29 Utilization
Manatee Academy K- 8	2,055	1,849	1,719	93%	1,818	98%
Forest Grove Middle	1,186	1,067	862	81%	912	85%
Rivers Edge Elementary	890	890	725	81%	766	86%
Southern Oaks Middle	1,283	1,154	922	80%	975	84%
Weatherbee Elementary	739	739	703	95%	743	101%
Saint Lucie West Centennial Senior High	2,823	2,681	2,431	91%	2,570	96%
Saint Lucie West K-8 School	2,040	1,836	1,684	92%	1,781	97%
Savanna Ridge Elementary	739	739	444	60%	470	64%
Performance Based Preparatory Academy	216	151	138	91%	146	97%
Performance Based Preparatory Academy	216	151	138	91%	146	97%
Oak Hammock K-8 School	1,882	1,693	1,711	101%	1,810	107%
Treasure Coast High School	2,515	2,389	2,770	116%	2,929	123%
West Gate K-8 School	1,900	1,710	1,614	94%	1,707	100%
Fort Pierce Central High School (New)	2,583	2,453	2,786	114%	2,946	120%
Samuel S. Gaines Academy of Emerging Technologies	1,852	1,666	704	42%	745	45%
Allapattah Flats K-8 School	1,943	1,748	1,285	73%	1,359	78%
Palm Pointe Educational Research School At Tradition	1,784	0	0	0%	0	0%
	51,265	**46,598**	**37,702**	**80.91%**	**39,869**	**85.56%**

Source: St. Lucie County School District, 2025

Map 10 -2. High School Proximity Zones



Source: St. Lucie County Schools, January 2025.

C. Relocatable Classrooms (Portables)

The Florida Department of Education requires school boards to include plans for relocatable classrooms as part of their 5-year work program. The most recent 2024-2025 Work Plan details the total number of relocatable classrooms for the St. Lucie County School District as shown in **Table 10-3**. The District outlines the total number of students in relocatable classrooms by year, the projected total number of COFTE students by year, and the percentage of students in relocatable classrooms each year.

Table 10 - 3: Relocatable Classrooms

Site	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 Year Average
Forest Grove Middle	154	154	154	154	0	123
Windmill Point Elementary	0	0	0	0	0	0
Village Green Environmental Studies	22	22	22	22	0	18
Port Saint Lucie Senior High	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parkway Elementary	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dale Cassens Educational Complex	97	97	97	97	0	78
Southport Middle	220	220	220	220	0	176
Saint Lucie Elementary	62	62	62	62	0	50
Dan McCarty School	0	0	0	0	0	0
Frances K Sweet Elementary	0	0	0	0	0	0
Floresta Elementary	166	166	166	166	0	133
Bayshore Elementary	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northport K-8 School	22	22	22	22	0	18
Allapattah Flats K-8 School	0	0	0	0	0	0
Treasure Coast High School	0	0	0	0	0	0
White City Elementary	180	180	180	180	0	144
Fairlawn Elementary	0	0	0	0	0	0
Creative Arts Academy of St. Lucie	132	132	132	132	0	106
Lawnwood Elementary	18	18	18	18	0	14
Lakewood Park Elementary	18	0	0	0	0	4
Lincoln Park Academy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fort Pierce Westwood Senior High	142	0	0	0	0	28
Morningside Elementary	191	191	191	191	0	153
Fort Pierce Central High School (New)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Samuel S. Gaines Academy of Emerging Technologies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oak Hammock K-8 School	0	0	0	0	0	0
Garden City Early Learning Academy	0	0	0	0	0	0

Site	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 Year Average
Chester A Moore Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saint Lucie West Centennial Senior High	19	0	0	0	0	4
Saint Lucie West K-8 School	0	0	0	0	0	0
Savanna Ridge Elementary	0	0	0	0	0	0
Performance Based Preparatory Academy	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Gate K-8 School	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rivers Edge Elementary	162	162	162	162	0	130
Southern Oaks Middle	135	135	135	135	0	108
Weatherbee Elementary	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mariposa Elementary	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manatee Academy K-8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Palm Pointe Educational Research School at Tradition	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals For St. Lucie County School District						
Total Students in Relocatables by Year.	1,740	1,561	1,561	1,561	0	1,285
Total Number of COFTE Students Projected by Year	39,315	39,222	39,125	39,480	39,870	39,402
Percent in Relocatables by Year	4 %	4 %	4 %	4 %	0 %	3 %

Source: St. Lucie County School District, 2025

D. Level of Service Standards

The City of Port St. Lucie coordinates with the St. Lucie County School Board and neighboring municipalities to establish School Concurrency Service Areas (SCSAs). This collaboration ensures the availability of school capacity in accordance with the Level of Service (LOS) standards.

III. Coordinated Planning Techniques

Section 163.31777(1), Florida Statutes (F. S.), requires the county and municipalities located within the geographic area of a school district to enter into an interlocal agreement with the district school board, which jointly establishes the specific ways in which the plans and processes of the district school board the local governments are to be coordinated.

Sections 163.31777(2) and (3) require local governments and school boards to collaborate on planning for population growth and student enrollment, ensuring coordinated efforts in school construction, closures, and renovations. It mandates sharing information on school facilities, improvements, and (re)development plans, as well as involving local governments in school district planning.

In 2008, St. Lucie County, the City of Fort Pierce, the City of Port St. Lucie, and the St. Lucie County School Board adopted the Interlocal Agreement for Public School Facility Planning. In 2012, a separate agreement was enacted between the St. Lucie County School Board and local governments to allow for the mutual use of their facilities for the benefit of the public. Most recently, in 2022, a revised Interlocal Agreement was signed to ensure alignment with Sections 163.31777(2) and (3). Coupled together, these agreements provide a coordinated approach to meeting the community's educational needs while effectively managing growth and resources. The City collaborates with the St. Lucie School Board to implement school concurrency as required by the interlocal agreements and in compliance with state statutes.

A. Shared Use Agreements

The quality of schools plays a significant role in shaping residential growth patterns. Co-locating schools alongside public facilities, such as parks, libraries, and recreational centers, can support education and community needs, as well as promote shared uses to enhance community life and minimize the cost of services. Section 1013.101. F. S., authorizes shared use agreements to increase public access to recreation and sports facilities, reducing the impact of chronic health diseases, such as obesity and diabetes, and healthcare expenditures.

B. Emergency Shelters

Florida Statutes, Section 1013.372 requires the Department of Education to work with emergency management offices to develop guidelines for designing public shelters. These guidelines will be added to the Florida Building Code, allowing new educational facilities to serve as emergency shelters, unless exempt due to location or size. The Division of Emergency Management is responsible for submitting a statewide shelter plan every two years, identifying shelter needs and funding recommendations.

In Port St. Lucie, schools designated as emergency shelters must meet specific criteria related to structural integrity, accessibility, capacity, utilities, resources, and location to ensure they can safely accommodate individuals during emergencies. Shelters are activated at the request of local Emergency Management Officials and are opened on an "as needed" basis. **Table 10-4** provides a list of schools that serve as emergency shelters. In addition to list of school identified as emergency shelter, the new Western Grove K-8 will be designated as a Tier 2 shelter upon its opening in 2026.

The tier numbers indicate the order in which shelters will open. Tier 1 shelters are the first to open during an emergency and are typically the main shelters, offering the largest capacity and most resources. Tier 2 shelters open if Tier 1 shelters reach capacity or if more shelter space is needed. Tier 3 shelters are opened last, only if both Tier 1 and Tier 2 are full or if there is a high demand for shelter space.

Table 10 - 4: Port St. Lucie Schools as Emergency Shelters

Tier Opening	Schools as Emergency Shelter	Building Number
3	Bayshore Elementary	1
3	CA Moore Elementary	1
3	Floresta Elementary	1
1	Fort Pierce Central High School	3
1	Fort Pierce Westwood High School	1

Tier Opening	Schools as Emergency Shelter	Building Number
1	Lakewood Park Elementary	1
3	Morningside Elementary	1
2	Oak Hammock Elementary	4
3	Parkway Elementary	1
2	Samuel A. Gaines Academy	4
1	Treasure Coast High School	3
2	West Gate K-8	4

Source: St. Lucie County Public Schools 2024-2025 Hurricane, Sheltering, & Facility Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan, p. 12

C. Future School Sites

The City has been requiring Development of Regional Impact (DRI) developers to set aside land for schools as part of the development process. The City will continue this practice when reviewing future large-scale annexations.

D. School Impact Fees

St. Lucie County has an educational facilities impact fee ordinance outlined in the St. Lucie County Code, Chapter 24, Article II. The ordinance aims to ensure that new developments contribute a proportionate share of the costs required to fund capital expenditures for educational facilities. In Port St. Lucie, school impact fees vary between $713 and $2,564, depending on the type of dwelling unit, which includes categories such as single-family homes, multi-family units with 1-3 stories, multi-family units with 4 or more stories.

IV. Projected Enrollment & Capacity

The City is projected to have 151,306 dwelling units by 2050, suggesting a need for 46,324additional dwellings. Assuming that the single-family (SF), multi-family (MF), and mobile home units continue to constitute the same proportions of the additional, ,40,498 of these dwellings will be single-family (including manufactured homes) and 5,826 will be multifamily buildings.

The student population projections for elementary, middle, and high schools over the next two decades shown in **Table 10-5** are based on the population projections produced by the City and generation rates provided by St. Lucie County Schools. Those projections show that by 2050, there will be 25,742 children in elementary school, 13,760 in middle school, and 15,669 in high school. Based on the data outlined in **Table 10-5**, the City estimates there will be 46,625 students by 2036 and 55,171 by 2050. As noted earlier, the School Board is planning to open four new schools in the near future that can help accommodate the growing student population.

Table 10 - 5: Projected Student Generation

School Type	Unit Type	Generation Rate	2030	2035	2036	2040	2045	2050
Elementary	SF	0.189	18,930	20,810	21,128	22,401	23,765	25,000
	MF	0.039	562	618	627	665	705	742

School Type	Unit Type	Generation Rate	2030	2035	2036	2040	2045	2050
Middle	SF	0.101	10,116	11,121	11,291	11,971	12,700	13,360
	MF	0.021	303	333	338	358	380	400
High	SF	0.115	11,518	12,662	12,856	13,630	14,460	15,212
	MF	0.024	346	380	386	409	434	457
Total Additional Students			41,775	45,923	46,625	49,435	52,446	55,171

Source: City of Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County, 2024 Future School Improvements

The St. Lucie Public Schools Board's Five-Year Strategic Plan outlines four key objectives for the period from 2024 to 2029. The first objective focuses on establishing a K-12 roadmap to success. The second objective aims to empower teachers as creators of both learning experiences and conducive learning environments. The third objective emphasizes engaging and supporting the St. Lucie community through vital infrastructure improvements. The fourth objective is centered on addressing the needs of 2030 with innovative, future-ready projects.

The St. Lucie County School District 5-Year Facilities Work Program is another key document that serves as a primary reference for multiple government agencies involved in areas such as funding, planning, and oversight of school facilities. Key stakeholders who depend on this program include the Department of Education, the Legislature, the Governor's Office, the County Division of Community Planning (Growth Management), local governments, and other relevant organizations.

Annually, the School Board is required to prepare a preliminary facilities work program prior to the adoption of the St. Lucie County School District's budget. This program outlines the available revenue and expenditures for new construction, remodeling, renovation projects, and major repairs aimed at preserving and maintaining educational facilities within the County. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the budget allocated for maintenance and repairs at St. Lucie County schools was $27,561,125, representing a notable decrease from the previous year's budget of $38,176,048. Per the 2023-2024 work plan, there are no plans for major renovations, remodeling, or additions in any of the Port St. Lucie schools.

As aforementioned, three new schools will be opening in the next few years – Legacy High School, Southern Grove, and Western Grove. Opening in the 2025-2026 school year at 14505 SW Crosstown Parkway in Port St. Lucie's Tradition neighborhood, ***Legacy High School*** will be home to 2,000 students in grades 9-12. The $80 million construction project will include an extension of Crosstown Parkway, providing direct access to the school. This will be the first new high school in the area in 20 years, and it is expected to ease overcrowding at Fort Pierce Central High School and St. Lucie West Centennial Senior High, both of which are approaching or exceeding their capacity.

Western Grove and ***Southern Grove***, both K-8 schools, are expected to open in the upcoming years. Western Grove is scheduled to open in the 2026-2027 school year, while Southern Grove is planned to open in the 2029-2030 school year.

V. Future Considerations

The Interlocal Agreement for Public School Facility Planning and School Concurrency established the schools level of service standards and the school concurrency program. As the City continues to grow, ongoing collaboration with the St. Lucie County Public School District remains important, especially regarding

development and growth. While no new agreements or coordination efforts are anticipated in the immediate future, to the City is committed to regularly reviewing and updating the existing agreement to address any evolving needs of both the City and School District.

- **Adapting to Evolving Educational Needs with Technology.** As Port St. Lucie continues to grow and educational needs evolve, it will be increasingly important to regularly update data and projections to assess the condition, capacity, and utilization of school facilities. As discussed in the St. Lucie Public Schools District's 5-year Strategic Plan, a goal is to engage and support the St. Lucie Community with physical, digital, and social infrastructure. With the growing demand for technology-enhanced learning environments, the City will consider implementing high speed internet citywide, security systems, and smart building technologies. With more people relying on digital platforms for education, having high-speed internet access across the city would ensure that all students, regardless of their location or socioeconomic status, can fully participate in online learning. Citywide high-speed internet could also support educators in using advanced tools and resources, leading to a more dynamic and interactive learning experience.
- **Planning for Future School Development and Infrastructure**. The City anticipates future school development and will work with St. Lucie Schools to ensure that roads and infrastructure are in place to serve the new schools. One way the City can assist with future school development is mapping all sites that have been dedicated to St. Lucie Schools by the DRI developers.
- **Integrating Schools into the Community Fabric**. Development applications will continue to be shared with the St. Lucie Public School District and other stakeholders to ensure that public schools effectively support the community's growth. The role of schools is especially important in larger developments and will be integrated into community planning. Ideally, schools will be centrally located within residential areas, within walking distance, and serve as community hubs. Improving pedestrian infrastructure and expanding transportation options around schools will enhance accessibility and safety, promoting more sustainable and walkable neighborhoods.
- **Building Strong Partnerships and School Design**. Building and maintaining strong partnerships with the School District and local government agencies will be essential for maintaining a coordinated approach to new developments, school site planning, and capital improvement projects. Incorporating new technologies and sustainable building practices into school design will improve the longevity and efficiency of school facilities, while addressing the evolving needs of students and educators. Ultimately, future planning for public schools will focus on creating safe, accessible, and community-centered spaces that promote educational excellence and enhance the overall quality of life in the region.