



MISSION:

The Juvenile Welfare Board invests in partnerships, innovation and advocacy to strengthen Pinellas County children and families.

VISION:

Our vision is that children in Pinellas County will have a future of more successful and satisfying lives because of the efforts of JWB and its partners.

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COLLECTIVE INITIATIVES
For Pinellas County Children



Preventable Child Deaths



Childhood Hunger



Student Achievement



Grade Level Reading

Investing in children.
Strengthening our community.

Message from JWB Executive Director

The Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) is charged with understanding the needs of Pinellas County’s youngest and most vulnerable residents; examining research and trends; identifying the vast resources available; and leveraging our influence to strengthen the lives of children, families and the community.

Issues facing families are more complex than ever, and children are the ones who suffer most. To move the needle and have positive change, we must commit to a collective impact approach that includes:

A COMMON AGENDA where all participants share one common vision for change;

SHARED MEASUREMENT so data is collected and results are measured consistently;

MUTUALLY-REINFORCING ACTIVITIES with a plan of action to ensure coordination;

CONTINUOUS COMMUNICATION that is open and consistent to build trust among participants; and

BACKBONE SUPPORT organization to serve as a convener and connector.

Together with our Board of Directors, funded partner agencies and others, JWB has identified four Collective Initiatives addressing important issues for Pinellas County children:

- **Preventable Child Deaths**
- **Childhood Hunger**
- **Student Achievement**
- **Grade Level Reading**

We’re asking everyone to be part of the solution by connecting to one or more of these Collective Initiatives. Because all Pinellas County children deserve futures of more successful and satisfying lives!



Dr. Marcie A. Biddleman, DM
JWB Executive Director



Grade Level Reading

Research shows that reading proficiency by the end of third grade enables students to shift from *learning to read* to *reading to learn*, and to master more complex subject matter in higher grades. Students who fail to reach this critical milestone are more likely to falter in later grades or risk school drop-out.

Yet, last year only 55% of Pinellas County third graders were reading on grade level, and a third of U.S. fourth graders fall below the basic achievement level in reading. Research shows that 88% of children who are not on grade level reading when they enter first grade are still behind when they reach 4th grade. Plus, children who aren’t reading on grade level by 3rd grade are *four times* more likely to not graduate high school.

There is no single solution. Multiple barriers prevent children from learning, starting very early in a child’s development. Contributing factors include:

SCHOOL READINESS - Research has proved time and again the importance of high quality early learning for the future success of children.

CHRONIC ABSENCE - Nationwide, one in 10 kindergarten and first grade students misses nearly a month of school each year in absences.

HEALTHY READERS - Healthy development greatly impacts the ability to learn, children who are on track in their physical, social and emotional, cognitive, and verbal development are more successful learners.

SUMMER LEARNING LOSS - Without access to enriching activities or support of summer learning programs, research shows children lose as much as three months of reading comprehension skills over the summer.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT – Parents are their child’s first teachers. Students are most successful when their parents are involved and engaged in their learning.

In addition to addressing many of the contributing factors, leadership from JWB and our funded partner agencies are taking a collective approach by championing an initiative called **READ TO SUCCEED!** Together with other community leaders, we will apply to become a Community Network with the National Campaign for Grade Level Reading and implement a community action plan. Together, we can strive to ensure all children are reading on grade level by third grade!

SOURCES: National Campaign for Grade Level Reading; The Annie E. Casey Foundation; Journal of Educational Psychology; NAEP; and Pinellas County Schools.



Student Achievement

There are many factors that contribute to a child’s ability to learn and be successful in school. We know it’s a challenge for children who are hungry to focus in the classroom and that those raised in families below the poverty level have disproportionately higher rates of truancy and school drop-out.

Great strides are being made so that more children have access to high quality early education and that services are in place for a supported, enriched learning environment during the school year and summer.

To close the gap in student achievement and ensure every child has the opportunity to learn and succeed, it takes all of us working together.

Pinellas County Schools recently announced it will be providing additional services to students at five elementary schools through a specialized model of support based on the successful components of the JWB Children’s Initiative at Fairmount Park Elementary. This four-year pilot provided an enriched learning environment, additional social services and strong parental engagement.

Success from the Fairmount Park pilot initiative included increased academic achievement, fewer discipline issues, more family involvement and increased school readiness. In addition, 80% of families attended monthly meetings; 2,300 home visits were conducted by social workers; and more than 90% of the initiative students entered kindergarten prepared to learn.

This model of support, designed in collaboration with JWB and the principals and teachers of the five schools, focuses on increasing school performance for all students with an emphasis on closing the achievement gap and turning around low-performing schools. This reform plan will be implemented at Campbell Park, Fairmount Park, Lakewood, Maximo and Melrose elementary schools in St. Petersburg.

Pinellas County Schools and JWB look forward to engaging other community partners, as we work together to ensure all children have futures of more successful and satisfying lives.

SOURCES: Pinellas County Schools and Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

State of Pinellas County Children

<p>160,731 5.7% Total Population Under Age 18 [2012]</p>	<p>33,604 21.4% Living in Poverty [2012]</p>	<p>5,625 3.5% Raised by Grandparents [2008-2012]</p>
<p>53.6% Eligible for Free or Reduced School Lunches [2012-2013]</p>	<p>38,940 Considered Food Insecure [2014]</p>	<p>7,000 Estimated to be Chronically Hungry or Food Insecure [2012]</p>
<p>78% Kindergarteners Ready for School [2013-2014]</p>	<p>55% 3rd Graders Reading on Grade Level [2013-2014]</p>	<p>12.3% K-12 Students Absent 21+ Days [2013-2014]</p>
<p>8.6% Low Birth Weight Births [2011-2013]</p>	<p>5.7 Infant Deaths per 1,000 Live Births [2011-2013]</p>	<p>29.6 Teen Births per 1,000 Females Ages 15-19 [2011-2013]</p>

SOURCES: American Community Survey; FL Dept. of Health - Pinellas County; Economic Research Service - U.S. Dept. of Agriculture; Florida CHARTS; Kids Count Florida; FL Dept. of Education; Pinellas County Schools.; and Feeding America/Map the Meal Gap 2014

Note: Except for school information, all data are estimates or provisional information.



Preventable Child Deaths

Did you know that Florida loses more children under the age of 5 to accidental drowning than any other state in the nation – and that 8 out of 10 of these drowning deaths occur in family swimming pools? Drowning is a silent tragedy; when a child slips under water, there’s usually no screaming or splashing.

Did you know children who co-sleep with their parents are 40% more likely to die from suffocation? Since 2010 in Pinellas County, nearly as many children under the age of 1 have died from co-sleeping and other non-approved sleep conditions, as have died from all other preventable causes from ages 1 to 17.

Did you know that over 50% of all children diagnosed with Shaken Baby Syndrome die? Plus, it’s not only shaking a baby that may cause hemorrhaging and other damage to the brain. Violently throwing a baby down on a bed or other hard surface can be just as life-threatening.

Did you know that children who live with adults *not* related to them are nearly 50 times as likely to die of inflicted injuries? Selecting a safe caregiver and knowing who’s watching your child is an important child safety strategy.

In only a matter of seconds these tragedies can occur yet the results are permanent and life-changing. What all of these child deaths have in common is that, in most cases, they could have been prevented.

A regional partnership between JWB, the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County, DCF – Suncoast Region, and Eckerd Community Alternatives is working to develop a Tampa Bay Regional Child Safety Public Service Campaign to address the three leading causes of preventable child deaths: *Drowning*; *Unsafe Sleep*; and *Abusive Head Trauma*. In addition, county-specific strategies will be put into place, working closely with Pinellas County child safety experts and community partners.

SOURCES: Florida Department of Children and Families; Florida Department of Health; and District 6 Medical Examiner’s Office.



Childhood Hunger

Take a moment to think about the last time you were hungry. Perhaps you skipped or missed a meal, and your stomach was growling or you had a headache. Perhaps you became irritable, found it hard to concentrate and focus or had difficulty sleeping. Now, imagine what it’s like to be a child and be hungry – day after day after day.

Nearly 16 million – one in five – children in America are at risk of hunger. These children will endure lifelong consequences as a result of having limited access to nutritious foods. In fact, they’re more likely to suffer poorer health, fatigue, behavioral difficulties and impaired school performance. A child who is unequipped to learn because of hunger and poverty is more likely to repeat the cycle of poverty as an adult.

Proper nutrition is vital to the growth and development of children, particularly for low-income children. In Pinellas County, over 50% of all school-aged children qualify for free or reduced school lunches. In addition, there are more than 144,000 food insecure Pinellas County residents, of which nearly 39,000 are children. And an estimated 7,000 Pinellas County children are considered *chronically* hungry or food insecure; that is, they go to bed hungry at night or don’t have enough food over the weekend.

Hunger doesn’t discriminate. It can affect any child – even those you’d least expect. Despite the good efforts of governments, private-sector institutions and everyday citizens, millions of children still don’t have daily access to the nutritious meals they need to thrive.

Countless community efforts are underway throughout Pinellas County to ensure children have consistent access to nutritious meals. Nourish to Flourish is one of these, and is supported through investments by the Juvenile Welfare Board, the Public Defender’s Office/6th Judicial Circuit, and others. Plus, collaborative efforts such as the Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger brings groups and individuals together to leverage all the resources we have so that no Pinellas County child is hungry.

SOURCES: Feeding America; Feeding America Tampa Bay; Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger; USDA; and Pinellas County Schools.