



**Mission:**

"Educate and prepare each student for college, career, and life."

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SCHOOL BOARD OF  
PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA  
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May 12, 2025

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Pinellas County Department of Justice and Consumer Services  
Attn: Tim Burns  
15251 Roosevelt Blvd, Suite 209  
Clearwater, FL 33760

Katie Blaxberg  
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Stephanie Meyer  
Dawn M. Peters

Superintendent  
Kevin K. Hendrick

Dear Mr. Burns,

I am writing to formally request that Pinellas County Code Section 122-3 increase the court fee, according to the "Dori Slosberg Driver Education Safety Act," from \$3 to \$5. This increase is critical to the continued growth and success of our driver's education programs, which serve all students throughout Pinellas County's public and private schools.

As you may be aware, the demand for our programs continues to rise significantly. This past summer, approximately 800 students couldn't participate due to limited capacity in the lottery system that was in place. In response, we have taken proactive steps to expand our offerings, including developing quarterly after-school camps and increasing summer camp opportunities.

However, additional funding is essential to sustain and further develop these initiatives. The cost of leasing vehicles has more than doubled, and the ongoing rise in fuel and maintenance costs has placed considerable strain on our budget. These expenses directly affect our ability to provide increased opportunities for all students.

We are also facing a critical staffing challenge. With an aging population of instructors and up to eight expected to retire within the next two years, we must take immediate steps to recruit and train new educators. Our goal is to recruit and retain additional instructors, which allows us to expand the number of schools and camps offering driver's education.

This year, we will increase the number of students participating in after-school and summer camps. Approximately 240 students completed our after-school camps, and we have 774 students currently enrolled in our summer camps.

The proposed increase in the Slosberg Funds would be directly used for:

- Expanding student access to driver's education during and after school, and over the summer.
- Offsetting the rising cost of vehicle leases, fuel, maintenance, repairs, and materials such as cones, signs, radios, etc.
- Recruiting and retaining qualified instructors to meet current and future demand.

We appreciate your consideration of this important request and your continued support and partnership in our mission to promote safe, educated young drivers in Pinellas County. This investment will have a lasting impact on our students and the broader community.

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kevin K. Hendrick  
Superintendent