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# PENSACOLA PNJ.COM News Journal

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 | PNJ.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Warrington Prep now a C school

### Academy had appealed previous designation of a D grade

Mary Lett

Pensacola News Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Spirits are soaring at Warrington Preparatory Academy.

Administrators learned last week that the academy's 2024-2025 school grade had been upgraded to a C after initially being given a D grade by the Florida Department of Education.

Warrington Prep Principal Delvin Vick said the D grade was calculated using scores from 48 students who had been assigned to an alternative setting and were not students at the academy during the 2024-2025 year.

"When students go to an alternative setting, those students usually fall under that school's grade, but that didn't happen with these 48 students," Vick explained. "That and our civics score

was significant enough to make a difference."

In July, the FDOE initially reported that Warrington Prep earned 41 percent-age points in the assessment but needed 44 to earn a "C" grade. According to the Department of Education's website, Warrington Prep earn 44 points for the 2024-2025 school year.

For 2023-2024, the charter school was 2 points from a "C," earning 42 per-

centage points.

Florida State Superintendent for Charter Schools USA Eddie Ruiz filed an appeal asking the state to exclude the data of the 48 students and include the civics end-of-course assessment of one student who was initially excluded. In a letter dated Sept. 8, the state DOE responded that after reviewing the information provided in the appeal, the commissioner has decided to grant the appeal and award Warrington Prep a C

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Tempers flair after a protester defaced a mural of Charlie Kirk at Graffiti Bridge on Sept. 14 during a Candlelight Vigil in honor of Charlie Kirk. PHOTOS BY JOHN BLACKIE/PENSACOLA NEWS JOURNAL

## Graffiti Bridge will remain safe space for free speech

### Pensacola mayor confirms no changes after incident at vigil

Jim Little

Pensacola News Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Pensacola Mayor D.C. Reeves said Graffiti Bridge will remain a space for free speech after a man was allegedly pepper-sprayed when he spray-painted over a mural of Charlie Kirk in the middle of a vigil for the assassinated political organizer and commentator.

The vigil occurred on Sept. 14, and a witness told News Journal photographer John Blackie, who captured photos moments after the incident happened, that the man spray-painted the mural and was subsequently pepper-sprayed by an unknown individual. Pensacola police are still seeking the individual who pepper-sprayed the man.

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Police officers and bystanders help a protester after he was pepper sprayed for defacing a mural of Charlie Kirk at Graffiti Bridge on Sept. 14 during a candlelight vigil in Kirk's honor.

## 'Counter proposal' nixed in FPL rate case

Jim Saunders

News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — As they consider a proposed settlement that would increase Florida Power & Light's base electric rates, state regulators will not take up a "counter proposal" offered by opponents.

Florida Public Service Commission Chairman Mike La Rosa on Friday issued an order dismissing a competing settlement proposal filed by the state Office of Public Counsel — which is designated by law to represent utility customers — and some consumer groups.

The Office of Public Counsel and the allied consumer groups are fighting a proposed settlement that FPL reached last month with numerous businesses and groups. The Public Service Commission on Oct. 6 will start what could be a two-week hearing on the FPL proposal and is expected to issue a decision later in the fall.

La Rosa, who is the case's prehearing officer, pointed in Friday's order to FPL's opposition to the counter proposal and said all of the parties in the case "readily acknowledge that the Florida Public Service Commission has never before considered a settlement agreement filed in a rate case that does not include as a party the utility that has requested the rate increase."

"Any settlement of a (case) docket ... must dispose of the original claim for relief," the order said. "The party who made this original claim is an indispensable party to any settlement of that claim. In this docket, FPL is an indispensable party to any settlement."

La Rosa said the Office of Public Counsel proposal "functions essentially as a position paper." While it will not be considered as a settlement proposal, he said the Office of Public Counsel and the consumer groups can use the positions in the counter proposal as they argue against the proposed FPL settlement.

The order backed arguments raised by FPL, which said in a document filed at the regulatory commission that the counter proposal was "illusory and unenforceable." But Ali Wessling, an attorney for the Office of Public Counsel, said during arguments last week that the office was unaware of any legal requirement that a utility sign on to an agreement.

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Volume 137 | No. 219  
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