

## **Pulaski County Special School District District Support & Continuity of Services Plan (Ready for Learning)**

PCSSD has gathered curriculum teams to further develop our existing curriculum and embed additional strategies to guide remediation/extension for students to ensure the continuity of teaching and learning. These efforts will continue to support all students where the effects of learning loss from our untimely pivot to online instruction are still being seen. District-wide focus skills, standards, and research-based practices to extend learning and provide rigorous experiences were also delineated in our curriculum to help support teachers in delivering effective instruction. AVID strategies have also been embedded into all core curriculum for best practices in instruction. Northwest Evaluation Association Measure of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) assessments are being used as diagnostics for students in grades K - 11 to determine where individual support is needed through small group instruction, remediation, and extension. In addition, IXL is being utilized for K-AGA math diagnostic testing, standards check-points, and formative assessments.

Math and reading curricula have been updated and/or adapted to meet the standards of high-quality instructional materials. PCSSD has adopted new reading programs for grades K-8 that meet the state-approved list for the Science of Reading. We will continue to supplement phonemic awareness through our Lexia program.

Science curriculum mapping has also been updated as we begin to reflect phenomenon-based science instruction throughout the district. Multiple professional development opportunities have been provided for our science teachers from the DESE Science team as we continue to partner with curriculum and teaching experts to move our instruction forward to meet the needs of the 21st century learner through the FUSE initiative. This initiative is available to all 6-8 science teachers and high school biology teachers.

Students in grades 3-11 are given formative assessments based on the district curriculum and pacing guide throughout the year to drive instruction based on student performance in reading, math, and science. Small group instruction is implemented in grades K-12 to reteach, remediate, provide intervention, and/or extend learning for all students. In addition, math and reading will also implement district formative assessments to assess student mastery of standards throughout the year. Data collected from these assessments will be used to guide and inform our instruction, including small groups, remediation, and extension. IXL will also add K-8 science for formative assessments and small group instruction.

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) also guide the learning process as schools address the data provided by these and other assessments. The district also continues to implement initiatives to assist our staff in building relational capacity of teachers and students to assist with coping from



# PULASKI COUNTY SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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trauma incurred during and as a result of the pandemic. AVID has been implemented in grades 3-11 to help the district close the opportunity gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. PCSSD will add grade levels to our AVID implementation each year until the program reaches all students K-12.

PCSSD is using the Schoology Learning Management System for our blended learning platform due to its compatibility with eSchool. Teacher training was held over the first two weeks of school. Teachers also participate in sessions where the teaching process is modeled and have access to video sessions of modeled lessons.

PCSSD families were given the option to receive instruction traditionally in our campus schools or digitally through our Driven Virtual Academy. During the week before school began, parents and students were provided access to training on how to use Chromebooks and navigate the Schoology platform. In addition to supporting the parents on new technology used this year, the District continues working with our communities to assist with internet access in some rural areas.

The District also provided summer school for our secondary students. All students in the district had access to Lexia, our reading program, IXL (K-8) and ALEKS (6-12), our math programs throughout the summer to support a myriad of needs. We believe that these measures aided our students in being better prepared for this new school year.

ESSA Funding is continually used to support the PCSSD ELA program for all learners. Pulaski County Special School District is committed to prioritizing its ESSA funds to advance its K-12 literacy program for all students. Funding has been allocated for phonics, phonemic awareness, reading comprehension, and foundational reading skills with an increased emphasis on high quality professional development.