



"Mustang Pride"

Pioneer Pleasant Vale School, Dist. 1-56

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Pioneer Pleasant Vale Schools plans to utilize ARP ESSER III funds to prepare, prevent and/or respond to the Covid-19 impact on our district. Through careful consideration of CDC guidelines and by ongoing consultation with local and state agencies, Pioneer Pleasant Vale Schools plans to focus on our preparation, prevention and our response concerning Covid-19 in relation to overall safety, re-opening our schools and keeping our schools open for in-person learning. Through preparation, our district policies regarding attendance, social distancing, quarantine, PPE, virtual learning, and participation will be transparent, clear and concise.

Pioneer Pleasant Vale Schools are requesting the use of ESSER III funds to help cover the added cost of insurance. In fact, the district's insurance costs increased by almost a third last year. Maintaining quality insurance coverage is one way the district can be sure that our tax dollars are protected from unforeseen accidents or outcomes that may be caused by Covid-19 or other major issues. By using ESSER III funds to cover this added expense, the district will be able to fully keep insurance coverage and focus on the most important thing of all, educating our students. To prevent the spread of Covid-19, our buildings will also be cleaned and sanitized using products that kill Covid-19 virus and other bacteria's and, as a mitigation strategy, all custodial staff will be properly trained in best practices of application. In addition, cleaning and sanitation staff will be rehired as they are part of our mitigation and prevention response to the pandemic. Cleaning supplies and custodial staff are paid for with other funds.

Evidence shows that clean air is paramount to staying healthy. Pioneer Pleasant Vale Schools has applied for a FEMA grant through the Presidential Executive Order that will fund UV Angel air purification systems in all of our classrooms and spaces where people congregate. Moreover, when feasible, classroom doors and windows will be left open in efforts to bring in as much fresh air as possible in efforts to keep our student and faculty healthy and safe. However, the result of this practice will be higher heating and cooling costs for the district. ARP ESSER III funds will be used to help offset that expense in keeping our students and staff safe and healthy. It is estimated that district utility bills may increase up to 80% due to this policy. ESSER III funds are budgeted to help cover this expense. By covering this expense it will allow the district to maintain the same level of operations as before COVID. It is vital to be able to maintain consistency for the students so they have a stable learning environment.

Our buildings will also be prepared to handle in-person instruction by appropriate spacing of tables, chairs and desks to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. Water fountains have been retrofitted with bottle fillers so that all students and staff can feel safe while staying hydrated. This is a prevention and mitigation tactic that limits germs and viruses from spreading by prohibiting touching and breathing on solid surfaces that may hold bacteria and viruses. Water fountain were purchased with other funds.

The response to the Covid-19 pandemic in relation to Pioneer Pleasant Vale Schools is that, through thorough communication with all stakeholders, there are policies in place that ensure every group or subgroup has input in district policy. Input will be requested through public notification by district website, notes sent home with students, district surveys, email, and robocalls. District policy has been adopted using input from stakeholders, faculty and staff and recommendations from the CDC, local and state health officials.

Under section 2001 of the ARP Act, 20% of the ARP ESSER III Act funds should be used to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence based interventions. Pioneer Pleasant Vale Schools has previously responded by offering summer school at no cost for students who needed remediation of credit recovery due to the pandemic. The district believes that there is no better form of evidence based intervention than a summer school program that will offset the "summer slide" of no learning taking place during the summer months and no better time to remediate and close the gap on learning loss. Summer school will focus on remediation and learning loss for all students, but an emphasis will be on those who have been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19 and are low-income, children with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, homeless students and children who are in foster care. The committee recommends providing alternative forms of enrichment and learning for all learners, but especially those who have been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19 and are low-income, children with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, homeless students and children who are in foster care. The district recommends offering summer school as a foundational instructional method to address learning loss or gaps that may have occurred during the Covid-19 pandemic. To address learning loss and/or learning gaps in these student sub-groups, or with students who may have been disproportionality impacted by Covid 19, the district will employ the use of several multi-sensory methods of instruction to increase student achievement and development. Examples of this may be one on one instruction, small group teaching, peer review, standards based digital curriculum, reading and comprehension support, hand on applied learning through labs and learning stations, service learning, etc. Each school administrative team will meet in the spring to review and select those students who would most benefit from this program. Moreover, the district also will respond to learning loss by hiring a instructional coach to assist out faculty and staff in remediating our students. This person will meet with faculty and staff, review all relevant data and provide plans for growth on district wide, building level and individual levels. Our students will have the option to request free tutoring from our staff at the rate of \$35/hour using ARP ESSER III funds.

Pioneer Pleasant Vale Public Schools is committed to administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable, to accurately assess students' academic needs. Through these assessments, the district has filtered its focus on subgroups that have experienced potential learning gaps over the past two years. According to our records, children with disabilities and children from low-income families have experienced the greatest amount of disruption in their educational career. Therefore, the district committee has chosen to focus on implementing evidence based activities, listed above, to meet the comprehensive needs of these students. This will allow the district to provide information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in summer school and self paced online instruction. Tracking student attendance and improving student engagement will also be a focus of the committee in its use of ESSER III funds.

As mentioned earlier and a direct result of added instruction and tutoring opportunities, the district plans on the purchase of additional student transportation to accommodate the added transportation

needs of before and after school tutoring. Having a tutoring program like this one and providing transportation directly impacts those students who are and have been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19 or other factors. The district has determined that current student transportation is not sufficient to accomplish both tasks while it is being used for route buses to get students to and from their school buildings. Due to loss of instruction and the need for remediation through one of one and small group tutoring teams, funds will be used to purchase additional student transportation to handle the anticipated increase in student transportation brought on by the need and demand for continued and extra remediation learning loss services. The district has determined that only one additional school bus will be needed but is vital in the success of the program. Students will benefit greatly by having additional transportation to gain access to the district wide tutoring program that will be offered beginning the 2021-2022 school year. The district wide tutoring program is a direct response to help students who have been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19.

Recently, the district was able to secure new Chromebooks for classroom and virtual learning through the Emergency Connectivity Act. However, to be effective, they must be charged and ready for use. The district proposes using ESSER III funds to purchase charging carts for students and teachers to charge their Chromebooks. Another response to prevent future learning loss was to provide all faculty and staff with hazard pay during the pandemic. During a time when people all over the world are choosing to stay home due to fear of Covid-19, our teachers and staff put their lives on the line and put their student's education first. This doesn't account for all the extra work that is necessary to accommodate the different learning strategies that in-person learning demands during a pandemic. There are also cases in each teachers class where they may have a student that is immunocompromised or quarantined and they must educate them virtually or individually.

The district also understands the extra work required in preparation for re-opening and keeping our doors open for in-person learning such as building sanitation and cleaning, desk and table rearranging, cafeteria seating plans, PPE devices and dividers being installed across the district, filter replacement, etc. Support staff will be awarded hazard pay for planning, preparing and delivering support services during a pandemic while continuing to attend work regularly during a staffing shortage and pandemic. Much like teachers, our support staff works diligently on a daily basis when others are staying home. These people are the reason we can have school. If it was not for them, we wouldn't have clean, sanitized, and maintained building to teach in and a place for our students to learn.

Funds will also be used for digital and handheld curriculum so that students and staff will have unlimited access to instructional materials at school and at home during this pandemic and thereafter. The district will meet with its committee that consists of the superintendent, building principals, curriculum specialist, instructional coach, and department heads to determine which digital curriculum gives the students of Pioneer Pleasant Vale the best educational opportunities for remediation and learning. The committee will choose a digital curriculum that is aligned to the state standards but is also grounded in evidence based research. By having digital curriculum, those students who may not be able to attend in-person learning for long periods and short periods of time will still have the same access to the teacher

and the lesson as those do with in-person learning. Moreover, we believe digital curriculum will allow for easier access and greater communication among teacher and student through email and one on one “Zoom” lessons, when needed. Without ESSER III funds, the district would not have the funds necessary to purchase this type of instructional materials and connectivity so that all of our students would have the same access to instruction and learning on a daily basis.

Another critical part of Pioneer Pleasant Vale’s ESSER III budget is to use funds on a social emotional learning program that will address the social and emotional toll that the pandemic has had on our faculty, staff and students. Funds will be used for the purchase, training and facilitation of the program and the hiring of supervisors who will follow through and oversee the program within the district. Recently, the district opted into a SEL pilot program through Edgenuity for students 6-12 called Purpose Prep, that will require all of our students to address their own social emotional growth and provide information for our teachers and counselors to help them based on their needs. We are very excited about this program and have high hopes that all of our students will grow socially and mentally into outstanding citizens. Pioneer Pleasant Vale Schools plan on expanding this program to all students K-12 next school year.
