



## Pioneer Pleasant Vale School, Dist. 1-56

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# PIONEER PLEASANT VALE SCHOOLS UPDATED USE OF FUNDS PLAN 2023-2024

Pioneer Pleasant Vale Public Schools will continue to utilize ARP ESSER III funds to Prepare, Prevent and/or Respond to the Covid-19 impact on our district. The committee recommends consulting the most recent CDC guidance in regards to reopening its schools to students and staff for the 2023-2024 school year, along with state laws and requirements. The districts guidelines will closely follow the recommendations of the CDC and state health authorities concerning the prevention and mitigation of Covid-19 in efforts to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning.

Pioneer Pleasant Vale Public Schools will dedicate the overall use of ARP ESSER III funds to ensure safety for students and staff. In addition, ESSER III funds will be used to maintain current levels of safety through cleaning, sanitation and staffing consistency. Measures will be taken to maintain full employment levels as well as provide adequate materials for cleaning and sanitation. Every effort will be made to offer additional opportunities for training for cleaning and sanitation best practices concerning Covid-19.

The district will implement and follow all of the committee's recommendations concerning Covid-19. Pioneer Pleasant Vale Public Schools plans to utilize ARP ESSER III funds to Prepare, Prevent and/or Respond to Covid-19's impact on our school district. In 2022 and 2023, the committee recommended providing alternative forms of counseling, enrichment and learning for all learners, but especially those who are low-income, children with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, homeless students and children who are in foster care. The district was able to use ESSER funds to equip every classroom with SYNEXIS Clean Air units that filter and clean the air so that our students can have safe and healthy learning environments. The district also recommended offering a district wide tutoring program as a one on one foundational instructional method to address learning loss or gaps that may have occurred during the Covid-19 pandemic. To date, the district has been able to handle this task in house with our current staff.

For 2023-2024, in efforts to address learning loss and/or learning gaps in these student sub-groups listed above, the district will employ the use of a district wide, after school, tutoring program that will serve all students, but especially those who fall into these categories. Several multi-sensory methods of instruction will be available to tutors to increase student achievement and development. Teacher/tutor developed curriculum and activities, self-paced digital learning, one on one instruction in the classroom and from tutorials, small group discussions, service learning, project based learning and individualized instruction are all examples of instructional strategies that may be used to address learning gaps caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Each teacher who provides an hour of additional, after school instruction will be compensated \$50/hr as will the transportation official who will transport students home when finished. The District will cover all additional supplies that may be needed. Also new for this school year, the District has hired new aides and adjunct teachers to lower class sizes and to provide additional remediation for students who still deal with learning loss. The District plans to use ESSER funds to compensate these new employees and will continue to employment in the future using available local funds.

The District will also continue to offer summer school opportunities for the summer of 2024 to our students who have suffered leaning loss or who need remediation. The committee sees the value in extending the school year for such students and highly recommends this program and using ESSER funds to support it. If approved, each teacher will be compensated \$100/day to teach summer education curriculum during the summer months. An additional hourly wage will be paid to the transportation official who will oversee and operate the school bus to transport students home.

Pioneer Pleasant Vale Public Schools plans to utilize ARP ESSER III funds to Prepare, Prevent and/or Respond to Covid-19's impact on our school district. This includes developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve school preparedness and response efforts.

In 2022, the recommend the utilization of ARP ESSER III funds in a manner that will best assist the district in maintaining current employment levels during the pandemic. This was done by offering each employee a \$1503.00 Hazard Pay stipend for 2022-2023 school year to address the added workload and social/emotional stress of providing a top quality education and learning environment for their students. The District was also able to use ESSER funds to offset the rising prices of utilities and insurance that was a result of the pandemic. By using ESSER funds to offset rising costs, the District was able to spend more local funds on student learning loss and remediation. The District will has and will continue to assist in coordination of preparedness and respond to efforts with the State, local and community health departments to prevent and prepare a response to the corona virus.

In 2022, the committee also recommended the need to remove learning barriers due to lack of transportation while increasing social distancing on school transportation by expanding seating capacity of the district's bus fleet. This was done by the purchase of a full sized International route bus that was put into service for tutoring services and bus routes. By doing so, students have experienced additional transportation opportunities to/from tutoring. An additional benefit has been fewer passengers on school buses and the opportunity for spread has been decreased.

In 2023-2024, the district continues to be committed to providing a clean, safe learning environment where students feel physically, mentally and emotionally secure to learn. By doing so, all students will have the opportunity for meaningful learning and practice, while their basic needs are accounted for and provided for them. This will be accomplished by using ESSER III funds to pay for the difference in insurance, heating and cooling costs for the district. This strategy has been very successful for our District and has helped keep classroom dollars being used for learning loss and remediation. This will ensure that our students will be comfortable and not be affected by rising costs of energy. Also, the committee discussed the additional purchase of an SUV for additional student tutoring transportation. While the students have already greatly benefited from the additional bus purchased with ESSER funds, the committee has identified the need for an SUV to serve the secondary campus. Being a two site district that is separated by 11 miles, the additional bus has only been able to serve the elementary site. The committee feels that an SUV would be sufficient to serve a smaller tutoring pool at the secondary campus. The District has committed to provide other funds in the purchase of that vehicle. The committee will continue to recommend planning for and coordinating services for all student groups during long-term closures, including providing meals, technology for online learning, guidance for carrying out IDEA services.