

**PLEASANT HILL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #69**



**ESSER III Plan**

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

This document is to serve as the Pleasant Hill District #69 plan for the safe reopening of Pleasant Hill Elementary School in the 2021-2022 school year. Likewise, its purpose is to outline how funds from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Act (ESSER III) will be used within the district. This plan focuses on four areas to ensure the safety of our staff and students, as well as addresses any learning loss that may have occurred during the COVID-19 global pandemic. The four areas of focus are **Academic Supports**, **Social/Emotional Supports**, **Health/Safety Resources**, and **Capital Improvements**.

## **ACADEMIC SUPPORTS**

The research is clear, there is no substitute for a high-quality, in-person learning experience that ensures student academic success. The global pandemic interrupted our instructional model and forced schools to provide instruction in a variety of ways (i.e. remote, hybrid, etc.) As we return to full-time, in-person instruction we will do the following:

- Summer School Program for Targeted Students-Summer 2021
  - Rationale: Students will be identified for the program based on their standardized assessment scores along with their core course grades. Students will be assigned a teacher based on their current grade level. Three teachers will teach the summer school program and grade levels will be grouped accordingly-K-2, 3-5, 6-8. Student needs will be identified and targeted by providing instruction at their individual level targeting specific skills, interventions, and instructional strategies.
  
- After school Program for Targeted Students-FY22-FY25
  - Rationale: Students will be identified for the after school program based on their standardized assessment scores. Four teachers will teach the after school program and grade levels will be grouped accordingly-3-5 & 6-8. Student needs will be identified and targeted by providing instruction at their individual level targeting specific skills, interventions, and instructional strategies.
  
- English Language Arts Curriculum-Implementation in 2022-2023 School Year
  - Rationale: The district currently utilizes grade level curriculum maps along with an outdated ELA curriculum. It is imperative that the district adopt and integrate a new ELA curriculum district wide. This will ensure all grade levels are on the same page and transition consistently throughout these grade levels learning the same content. It will also allow the staff to work at increasing test scores district wide.

## **SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS & COMMUNICATION**

We recognize that living through a global pandemic has taken an emotional toll on our communities. It is clear that our school will play a vital role in helping students and staff deal with any trauma the pandemic may have caused. As we return to full-time, in-person instruction, we are committed to providing the social-emotional support that our students need and to intentionally engage all families in the educational environment.

- District Counselor to Provide Student SEL Support and Family Engagement-FY22-FY25
  - Rationale: Students have encountered a great deal of trauma and social emotional stress over the past year as a result of the pandemic. They need someone to provide them with assistance in dealing with this trauma and stress, as well as someone who can help them build essential SEL skills. A full time district counselor will be hired with ESSER III funds to support students in this role. This counselor will also provide assistance to families in need of bridging the gap between home and school, as well as getting students in school and keeping them in school.
  
- New Parent Communication Methods for Families
  - Rationale: It is essential we have effective means of communicating with our families. Our current website is out of date and not user friendly. Therefore, the district will integrate a new district website to communicate essential information with families. There will also be a district app in which families can download on their handheld devices to keep them up to date on essential information taking place in the district. Administration will also make it a point to communicate via social media platforms.

GOAL: To create a sustainable SEL implementation plan that includes opportunities for access to all by expanding our ability to communicate with our families.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY RESOURCES**

Health and safety of our staff and students is always our top priority. The COVID-19 Global Pandemic has taught us important lessons on how to follow the safety guidelines to keep our students and staff safe. These include, but are not limited to cleaning protocols, hand sanitizing, social distancing, and virus suppression. While the vaccine provides some sense of protection, we will continue to require additional safety measures for the 2021-2022 school year. As we return to full-time, in-person instruction we will do the following:

- Provide staff and students with PPE-masks, gloves, etc.
- Provide additional supplies for cleaning-wipes, spray, sanitizer, etc.
- Integrate additional time into the custodians schedule for cleaning the building
- Implement COVID-19 testing on-site with staff and students
- Provide district sponsored vaccine clinics throughout the year

GOAL: Continually monitor guidance from IDPH, CDC, & ISBE to adjust the learning environment as needed for our district to remain open for in-person learning for all students to the greatest extent possible.

## **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

The ESSER III funds provide districts with the opportunity to resolve structural issues that may need to be addressed within their schools. These capital improvements help improve the learning environment and make schools safer for students and staff. As we return to full-time, in-person instruction we will do the following:

- Implement outdoor learning environments
  - Rationale: Creating these outdoor learning environments will allow students to engage in learning experiences outdoors where they can engage in social distancing and continue with the COVID-19 mitigation strategies. A new concrete pad with an overhang will be constructed outside the cafeteria in which students can utilize for a learning space, as well as eat lunch and engage in social distancing. A track will also be constructed, along with a pavilion in the middle of the track for another learning environment. Outdoor furniture will be purchased to allow for additional places in which student learning can take place.
  
- Repair/improve school facilities to reduce the risk of virus transmission

GOAL: Over the next four years, the district will increase the number of functional spaces in which learning can take place for students.