

## **DETERMINATION AND PRIORITIZATION OF NEEDS CAUSED BY COVID-19**

Pioneer Technology and Arts Academy (PTAA) is a charter fueled by the desire to empower and engage students to reach their full potential as global leaders who will enhance their communities and world through creativity, collaboration, and innovation. To meet this mission, the charter strives to provide:

- Students with high-quality education, which will prepare them for a career in their choice career field, including to be admitted to and excel at top universities and colleges;
- Parents the knowledge and tools needed to help support their child(ren) achieve academic excellence; and
- Staff the tools and professional training to give new teachers the greatest opportunity for success as well as sustain veteran teachers as they meet new challenges in education.

Unfortunately, like most schools, COVID-19 had a detrimental effect on the teachers' ability to teach and students' ability to learn. Administration has met to analyze various student data to determine levels of unfinished learning based on factors such as demographics, grade levels, and schools. From that analysis, personnel determined the greatest needs of students, the charter's readiness to address those needs, and the funding plan.

In addition, surveys, and information forums (Board Meetings) were utilized to obtain feedback from teachers, parents, and students on their perceived needs and the best use of ESSER funds, specifically in this listing, ESSER II funds.

Based on this information, Pioneer Technology and Arts Academy determination and prioritization of needs caused by COVID-19 led to the following areas of focus for the use of grant funds:

- To address unfinished learning caused by the COVID pandemic, PTAA is budgeting funds to provide intervention technology programs/items that will aid in educational interaction and assist with learning loss caused by months of learning that occurred online or was missed. This technology also targets ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) subgroups, specifically economically disadvantaged students, those from major ethnic/racial groups, children with disabilities and English Learners (ELs).
- COVID-19 is spread mainly between people who are within about 6 feet of each other for at least 15 minutes. Tiny droplets form in the air when someone coughs, talks, sings, or laughs. Droplets from someone who has COVID-19 can contain the virus. To address these concerns, Pioneer Technology and Arts Academy to help ensure the well-being and safety of the students and staff, PTAA purchased numerous items utilized to maintain and sanitize the facilities. Grant funds will be used to fund special campus cleaning efforts all with an effort to reduce and mitigate the risk of virus transmission. With the threat of the COVID-19 variant and other pathogens, it is important that students, staff, parents, and community members need to feel secure in fully resuming in-person instruction. Managing these elements and purchasing these items will not stop the spread of COVID-19 by itself, but it can lower the number of people infected when people also wear a face covering; stay at least 6 feet from others who are not household members; have good hand hygiene; clean

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and disinfect surfaces that are touched a lot; and take any other steps to control and stop infection.

- Further, to ensure the health and safety of students and staff, PTAA will continue to provide security personnel to restrict access to the schools due to COVID. These personnel are expected to maintain a safe and secure potation and continuity of services at the charter school.
- The charter will utilize grant funds to purchase additional interactive technology and software to be utilized by students and staff. This technology/software will improve the charter's capabilities of providing a high-quality education. In fact, the educators will now be able to customize their programs to meet diverse learning styles, levels, and educational needs. PTAA hopes to support student learning at all achievement levels.
- As another health safety precaution to maintain distance between students, portable space modules were used and funded through pre-award costs as well as are expected to continue to be needed and then uninstalled when not necessary any longer. Those facility improvements have enabled the schools to reduce the risk of virus transmission during this time.