



Pearl River School District

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Marco F. Pochintesta, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

May 20, 2021

Dear Pearl River District Community,

We are seeking the input of the community on how best to utilize the multi-year funding that has been made possible by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and the Coronavirus Response and Relief and Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRSSA). Together these two federal funding sources will bring \$4.6 million dollars in aid to the school district that must be accounted for over the next three years.

An important requirement that accompanies this new federal funding is the inclusion of stakeholder input on how the aid can best help the District. Principals have worked with their staff at each of the schools to gather their input. Our process for obtaining stakeholder input from our parent community will begin with two in-person focus groups on May 25 and May 26. We have contacted the PTA leadership from each of our schools to help us create focus groups. We would like to have five participants from each elementary school for each session, and ten participants from PRMS, and PRHS for each of their sessions. Participants will be able to choose from a daytime or evening session, 7:00 p.m. on May 25th in PRHS Pirate Cove, or 9:30 a.m. on May 26th in our District Administration Building. If you are interested, please contact your PTA president or school principal.

Focus Group Process:

We will begin each session with an overview of how ARP and CRSSA funding can be utilized. For each session we will have 15 participants representing each of the elementary schools. These participants will be divided into groups of five with an administrator serving as a moderator and recorded. Similarly, we will have 10 participants from the Middle School, and 10 from the High School at each session, and they will be divided into groups of 5 with an administrator serving as moderator and recorder. The moderator facilitates the conversation in the small group and records the feedback. We will share the aggregate feedback obtained through the process as we move forward.

We plan to use what we have learned from the focus groups and staff meetings to create a survey instrument that will be administered throughout the district. We are excited about the opportunity to have the feedback of our community to inform our decision making in this process.

Sincerely,

Marco F. Pochintesta, Ed. D.