

Modesto City Schools Sunsetting COVID Funds Guiding Principles DRAFT

Due to the impact of COVID-19, Modesto City Schools received funding from both State and Federal programs aimed at bolstering student outcomes and mitigating the challenges brought about by the pandemic. Commencing in the 2021/22 academic year, a portion of these funds have already been removed from our budget, while others are earmarked for the subsequent two years.

As a result, Modesto City Schools must initiate a process to gradually phase out COVID-19 related programs over the next two years. This year, the District will embark on an identification process to determine which programs will be discontinued for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 school years.

At the heart of this process lies the development of Guiding Principles. These Guiding Principles will serve as the foundation for our staff to assess and select programs for discontinuation. It is imperative to emphasize that our decisions will prioritize the well-being of our students and the maintenance of a high-quality education. Prior to finalizing the Guiding Principles, we will engage in a comprehensive consultation process to gather input and feedback from our Educational Partners and the Board of Education.

Guiding Principles

1. Student - Centered:

- Prioritize the best interests of students in all decision-making processes.
- Consider the impact of sunsetting program funds on student learning, and student achievement.

2. Equity and Access:

- Ensure program realignment decisions are made in a way that maintains equitable access to educational opportunities for all students, ensuring a there is a focus on student groups who have historically underperformed.
- Consider the needs of all students, particularly focused on vulnerable student populations when making decisions.

3. Prioritize Core Educational Goals:

- Preserve programs and/or services that directly support District Strategic Goals: Instructional Core, Inclusive Practices, increasing the reclassification rate for English language learners, and increasing graduation rates/decreasing drop out rates.

4. Consider Long-Term Investments:

- Consider programs that need additional years to show progress towards increasing student outcomes.

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