

Pleasanton Unified School District School Climate and Safety Information

PUSD and City of Pleasanton Joint Meeting- 4/20/23



Background: COVID

Studies shows that the impact of the pandemic on K–12 student learning was significant: “The Other Long Covid”

- Learning loss
- Essential/foundational skills were not acquired
- Attendance issues: Students did not return
- Loss of the opportunity and the time to build on what they knew
- Temporary hindrance for high-achieving students who had the support at home to catch up, but devastating for students of color, students who are socioeconomic disadvantaged, and other marginalized students

COVID Impact on Behavior

- Students were not in classrooms learning socialization skills
- Some students had never attended a formal school setting (TK-3)
- Stamina for learning decreased
- Classroom readiness skills have decreased
- Students have experienced trauma and behavior is a trauma response

Perception on Behavior

- Perception that schools need to have more severe consequences for student behavior
- Need “Zero Tolerance” for certain types of student behavior
- Consequences need to be swift and reactive, such as suspension, to effect change in student behavior
- However, research tells us that suspension rarely has a long-term positive effect on behavior

Suspension as a reaction

Data and research do show that suspension, as the only means of behavior correction, does not work.

“Exclusionary discipline—including expulsion, transfers to alternative schooling environments, out-of-school suspension, in-school suspension, and classroom removal—has deep roots in U.S. history, and its use has increased dramatically during the last 3 decades of the 20th century (Wald & Losen, 2003).

Suspension as a reaction

It disproportionately affects students of color, students with disabilities, and students from other historically disadvantaged groups (Losen & Whitaker, 2018; Noltemeyer et al., 2015) and has been linked to a host of negative outcomes, including poor grades, disengagement, chronic absenteeism, grade repetition, dropout, lower graduation rates, adult mental illness, and incarceration”

(Hwang, 2018; Mendez-Raffaele & Knoff, 2003; Monahan et al., 2014; Morris & Perry, 2016; Noltemeyer et al., 2015; Wolf & Kupchik, 2017).



Education Code on Suspension and Discipline

- [CA Ed Code: 48900](#): California education code encourages schools to provide alternatives to suspension or expulsion that are age appropriate and designed to address and correct the student's specific misbehavior (Ed. Code 48900 (v))
- Additionally, the law requires that schools first utilize other means of correction prior to suspending a student from school, in most situations. (Ed. Code 48900.5)
- Depending on the offense, school administrators **may** offer restorative practices as a reduction to suspension, alternative to suspension, or in addition to other disciplinary actions taken.



PUSD Actions Steps: Student Incident

- 2 Town Hall Meetings to Pleasanton Middle School Parent Community
- Survey sent to PMS Parent Community asking for feedback and questions
- Safety and Climate Plan Created for Pleasanton Middle School
- Safety and Climate Coalition committee for Pleasanton Middle School
- 2 Pleasanton Middle School Safety and Climate public viewings of the plan and input meeting (Zoom option available)
- Early and Expanded Learning: “Panther Club” - After school care until 6:00pm
- Collaboration with the City of Pleasanton

Student Support Services Division

Pleasanton Library



- After School Academic Support (PUSD)
- Administrative Support (PUSD)
- After School Recreational Activities (City)
- M-F 3-5 p.m. (or 1:30-3:30 p.m. on early release days)

PUSD Actions Steps: Student Incident

Creation of a Safety and Climate Plan specific to Pleasanton Middle School- 02/2023

Data Analyzed to Inform Concerns: California Healthy Kids' Survey (CHKS), Discipline data (suspension data, data of incidents of bullying and fights/assaults, data of rate of repeat violators), Student/Staff Survey data, Student/Staff interviews, PUSD School Quality Survey Data, attendance data, and student achievement data.

Below the Action Plan contains Three SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, timely) Goals with Rational and Explicit Strategies/Actions, Timeline and Who is involved.

- **Goal 1:** Ensure all students follow CA Education Codes regarding discipline.
- **Goal 2:** Improve connectedness on campus and improve the climate of the campus.
- **Goal 3:** Improve relationships and connectedness between on campus staff/admin and our community.

Student Support Services Division



Campus Safety: General Requirements

- Each school site has an School Site Safety Plan that is approved by the School Site Council
- Each school site has a Comprehensive School Safety Plan that is approved by the PUSD School Board
- Each school site runs required safety drills each month including lock-down drills, fire, earthquake and evacuation drills.
- The District Safety Officer holds monthly radio drills with all school sites to ensure immediate communication in case of an emergency.



PUSD Discipline Data

2017-2018 to 2022-2023



Expulsion Discipline Data

School Year	Cumulative Enrollment	Total Expulsions
2017-18	15,430	7
2018-19	15,481	9
2019-20	15,313	16
2020-21	14,961	0
2021-22	14,141	6
2022-23	14,104	< 5

Education Code 48915 defines expulsions.

Expulsion counts include all expulsions, even those expulsions where the term of the expulsion has been shortened or the enforcement of the expulsion was suspended.

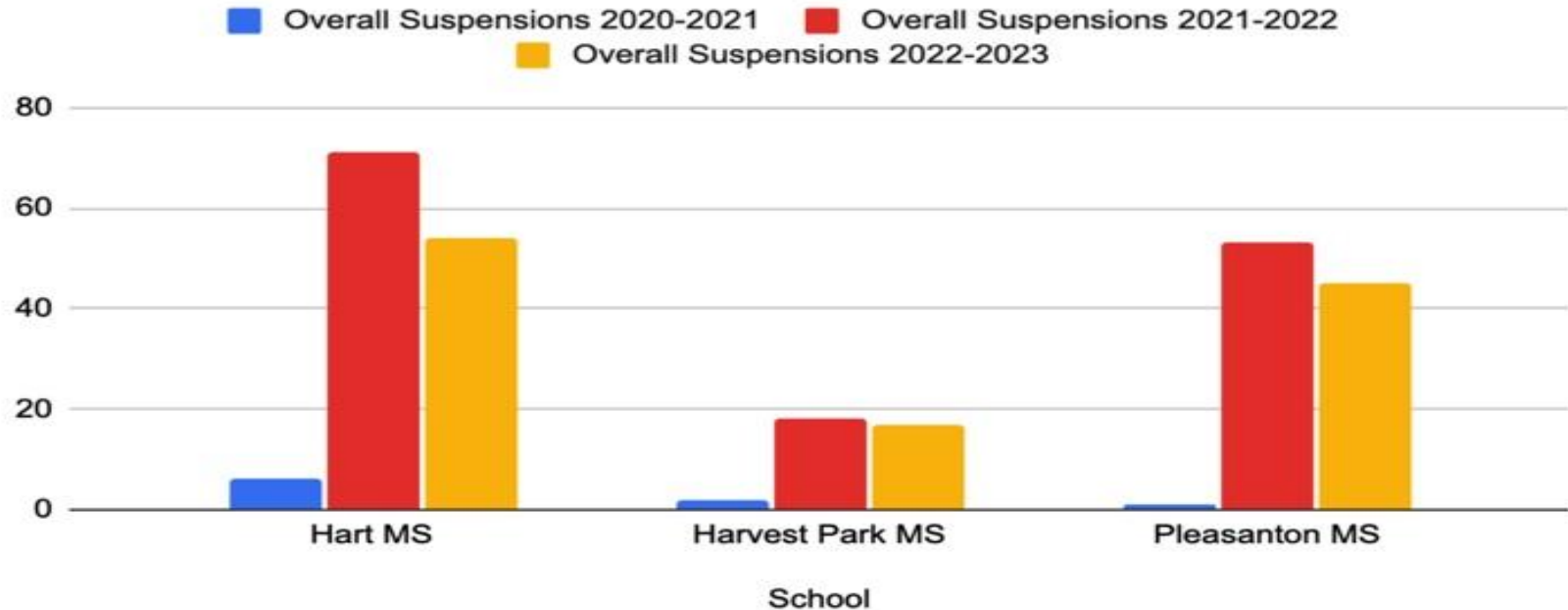
Comparative Discipline Data: Middle Schools

Middle School Discipline Data for 2022-2023 - At the time of the incident

- Overall, Hart MS had the most suspensions, year to date, at 40
- PMS has the highest number of suspensions for 48900(a) (1) and (2) at 27
 - 48900(a)(1): Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.
 - 48900(a)(2): Willfully used force or violence upon the person of another, except in self-defense.
- Harvest Park MS is the only school that has found “ a dangerous object” on its campus.
 - 48915(a)(2): Possession of dangerous object
- Hart MS has the highest number of Bullying and Sexual Harassment suspensions at 10.
 - 48900(r)
 - 48900.2

Comparative Discipline Data: Middle School

Overall Suspensions 2020-2021, Overall Suspensions 2021-2022 and Overall Suspensions 2022-2023

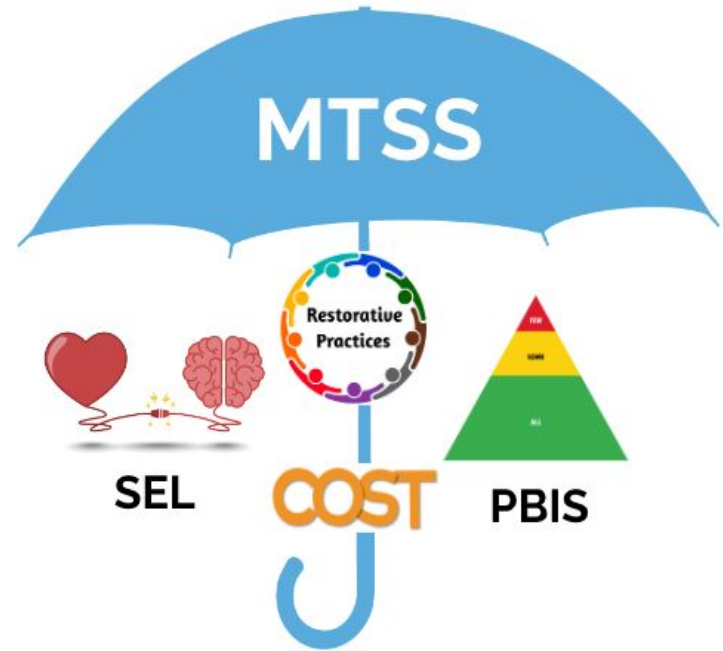


Student Support Services Division

Continuum of Supports

Integrated Learning Supports and Non-Academic Components of Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)

- Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- Coordination of Services Team (COST)
- Restorative Practices (RP)





What is being done to address this issue?

- Equity and Inclusion professional development for all site administrators
- Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS) Committee and Action Plan
- Student Services has completed 4 trainings for administrators: including *“Other Means of Correction”* before suspensions
- Continued analysis of suspension data for disproportionality
- Restorative Practices Professional Development was offered at the PUSD Staff Development Day in November and March
- Restorative options as a part of the PUSD Discipline Plan
- Tri Valley SELPA offered a series of parent workshops on digital technology. The workshops addressed the prevalent issues involving student’s use of digital technology, the impact on mental health, and roles and responsibilities of parents in establishing healthy digital technology use as a family. *“Plugged in Parents: Parenting in a Digital Age (grades K - 8)”*

PUSD Next Steps:

- Continue community meetings, Guiding Coalition, at PMS
- Presentation to PUSD Board of Trustees in May on Discipline and Student Safety
- Survey on Student Safety and Police Partnership given to students, staff and parent/guardians
- 2023-2024 K-12 Insight Survey for PUSD Community
- Continued Partnership with Pleasanton Police Department through Police Liaison Meetings.
- Continued collaboration with the City of Pleasanton and the Pleasanton Library.

Questions?