To: USD 261 Board of Education & Mr. Jeff Hersh
From: Jennifer Reed
Re: PowerSchool Attendance Intervention Suite (AIS)
Date: September 18, 2023

History/Relevance: USD 261 has been tackling the issue of Chronic Absenteeism. During the 21-22 school year, 54.7% of USD 261 students were chronically absent. With a centralized focus on decreasing chronic absenteeism, the district discovered data entry was part of the problem. With the work of the Attendance Team, monthly data checks, a new Board policy, and creative ways to reengage families in school, the district was able to decrease chronic absenteeism to 32.6% in the 22-23 school year. We are still going! We want to continue to decrease these numbers and believe the PowerSchool Attendance Intervention Suite (AIS) can help.

What: Power School has an Attendance Intervention Suite allows staff to easily compile data, look for trends or issues, contact parents in various ways, and help engage staff to focus on decreasing chronic absenteeism.

Why: Currently, pulling absenteeism data in PowerSchool is difficult and time-consuming for our leaders. They have to run a specific report, sort it, add formulas to see the percentage, and make sure that this data is up to date by reaching out to the district office.

Where: With the purchase of AIS, each building could see the data, easily contact parents in multiple ways and languages, and drill down to have collaborative conversations with staff to assist with increasing student attendance.

When: Pending Board approval; it will take eight weeks to load AIS into PowerSchool and run. We would like to get started as soon as possible.

How: With Board approval, I will reach out to PowerSchool to process the payment, and we will work with their technology team to get them the data they need and begin planning professional development for building principals, secretaries, coaches, and other staff.

Who: This will positively impact the workload of all attendance secretaries, administrators, and staff who are involved with decreasing chronic absenteeism.

How much: The total cost for the Attendance Intervention Suite is $29,961.00. This is a pro-rated cost since we will start later in the school year. This also includes a one-time training fee of $1,950.00. The ongoing annual cost for AIS for an entire school year will be $33,707.00. The Information Technology Department has agreed to share half of the cost. The other half will come from Title IV At Risk Funds Account # 07 E 2200 320 0000 494.

Thank you,

