

**Putnam City School Board Approves Vaccine Stipend for Employees
and District Substitutes; Retention Stipend for Employees**

(Oklahoma City, Oklahoma) The Putnam City Public Schools Board of Education approved a one-time vaccine and retention stipend for all eligible district employees. Putnam City Schools understands the importance of students attending school in-person and recognizes vaccinations are one of the most effective ways to limit contracting COVID-19.

Using Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief(ESSER) funds, the district is giving a one-time, non-recurring stipend of **\$1000** for any full-time or part-time employee (part-time defined as minimum of 20 hours) who is or becomes fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by October 1, 2021. The vaccine stipend will be paid to qualifying employees on or before December 17, 2021.

Retention of faculty and staff during the pandemic is a high priority for PCPS. The district will offer a **\$500** stipend to full-time and part-time employees (part-time defined as minimum of 20 hours) employed by September 1 and who remain continuously employed through March 31. The retention stipend will be paid to qualifying employees in April.

Any employee who is on a leave of absence during the 2021-2022 school year do not qualify for the vaccine or retention stipend.

Substitutes are an important resource in the successful operations of a school district. To recruit and retain substitutes during the pandemic, the district will provide a one-time, non-recurring stipend **up to \$1000**. Substitutes must be fully vaccinated by October 1 and work the 60, 45 or 30 days per semester to receive the vaccination and retention stipend.

“It is the goal of the district to provide the safest and healthiest environment for our students and employees. We feel that the best way to do this is to have as many of our employees vaccinated as possible,” said Dr. Fred Rhodes, superintendent of Putnam City Public Schools.

A vaccine clinic is being offered for employees, substitutes and students and their families on Wednesday, September 15 from 3:30 – 7:30p.m. at James L Capps Middle School at 6400 NW 63rd St. Registration is only required for the first dose and can be found on the COVID 19 tab of the district website.

In addition to the importance of increasing the number of vaccinated employees is also updating the Return to Learn plan. It is now an expectation of PC Schools that masks be worn at all times when in the presences of the most vulnerable in the school environment, especially for those whom the vaccine is not yet available and those who cannot or have not been vaccinated.

“This should be viewed as a step we are taking out of courtesy to those who cannot take the vaccine or those who cannot or have not been vaccinated,” noted Rhodes.