Executive Summary:

Located in the middle of Braes Heights, in Houston, Texas, Pershing Middle School is a place of purposeful exploration, and we are fortunate enough to have community partners who are involved stakeholders and volunteers, who support teaching and learning throughout the school community. Students, parents, faculty, and staff work together in a student-centered environment to promote self-esteem and to foster lifelong learning. Pershing has a supportive culture that encourages healthy risk taking and fosters responsible citizenship. For faculty and staff, professional growth is continuous, and positive role modeling is a found throughout the campus. We hold true to our vision that Pershing Pandas are Empowered by Diversity, Inspired by Success, and Committed to Lifelong Learning.

In the 2020-2021 school year, Pershing Middle School had a population of 1720 students. Our student population comes to us from eight feeder elementary schools, as well as from elementary schools throughout the district through our Fine Arts magnet program. Our diversity is our strength. We are 19% White, 33% African American, 39% Hispanic, 7% Asian, and 2% two or more races. We service all students, including English Learners (17%), Special Education (6%), and Gifted and Talented (36%).

Pershing Middle School is proud to say that we met standards under the Texas Education Agency’s 2019 Accountability System by meeting standards in all three domains: Student Achievement, School Progress, and Closing Gaps. However, we must substantially increase our students’ performance on meeting the final passing standard and masters standard in all subject areas. We continue to struggle with our English Learner and Special Education population and will be working with our ESL teachers and Special Education teachers to target specific skill levels to help meet the needs of our students’ varying abilities. We also need to increase our usage of English Learner strategies to help student progress at least two proficiency levels from one year to the next.

We will focus on structured interventions for all core areas for the weakest students. Programs will be analyzed using frequent common assessments, six-week grade analysis, district benchmarks, and school-designed benchmarks. Data analysis will consist of a data analysis framework to assist in planning appropriate interventions for student success.

Our goals/measurable objectives this year are:

Goal Area 1 – Student Achievement in ELA/R: Students achieving at MEETS level in grades 6-8 will increase to 55% as measured by 2022 STAAR Reading Assessment.

Goal Area 2 – Student Achievement in Math: Students achieving at MEETS level in grades 6-8 will increase from 30% to 50% as measured by 2022 STAAR Math Assessment.

Goal Area 3 - School Progress: Students achieving at least one year of academic growth in grades 6-8 will increase by 10 percentage points as measured by 2022 STAAR Math and Reading Assessment.
Goal Area 4 - Closing the Gaps: Students identified as Special Education achieving at the APPROACHES level in grades 6-8 will increase by 10 percentage points as measures by the 2022 STAAR Reading and Math Assessment.

Goal Area 5 – Attendance: The average daily attendance will increase to 98% during the 2021-2022 school year.

Goal Area 5 – Student Discipline: During the 2021-2022 school year, we will reduce the number of In-School and Out-of-School Suspensions by 25%.

Goal Area 5 – Violence Prevention & Safety: To prevent students from vaping at Pershing by 100%, we will create a monitoring schedule for key areas within the building for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Goal Area 5 – Special Populations: Students identified as English Learners achieving at APPROACHES level in grades 6-8 will increase by 5 percentage points as measured by 2022 STAAR Reading and Math Assessment.

Goal Area 5 – Parent Involvement: As measured by the attendance sign-in at events held during the 2021-2022 school year, we will increase the number of Spanish-speaking parents who attend campus meetings and events by 50%.

To achieve success in the various goal areas, the Pershing leadership team has been reorganized to include six Assistant Principals, a Dean of Instruction, and Magnet Coordinator. Each has been assigned a specific subject area that they will be responsible for. Content areas will meet weekly to share best practices, analyze data, and plan lessons. School-wide tutorials will be offered beginning in November for math, science, reading, and social studies.