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SUPERINTENDENT
Nora Gutierrez

August 14, 2020

Dear TUHSD Parents/Guardians,

It is always our sincere hope to communicate with you as soon as we have pertinent information that affects the education and services provided by our District to our students. That is why we are communicating with you today with the latest information that we have received.

As you may know, per Arizona Governor Doug Ducey's Executive Order, 2020-51, the Governor directed school districts to offer free on-site support services for students who need a safe space to go during the day. The date for these services to begin was originally Monday, August 17.

However, as our District reviewed the cases of COVID-19 in our communities, we had concerns on whether we could provide on-site support services in a safe environment for both our students and staff. Therefore, TUHSD made the difficult decision to submit a waiver from the Executive Order requirement, given the high transmission rates for COVID-19 within our District boundaries.

Per Executive Order 2020-51.3.d., a waiver for providing on-site resources can be issued by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) when the county health department in conjunction with the Arizona Department of Health Services advises closing the **ENTIRE** school district due to an outbreak of the virus.

Today, the Arizona Department of Education approved our District waiver of the requirement to offer free on-site learning opportunities and support services for students who need a safe place to go during the day. Also, after reviewing the data, the Maricopa County Department of Public Health agrees that TUHSD should refrain from providing on-site support services in our schools until community spread of COVID-19 has decreased.

The health and safety of our students, staff, and their families is our highest concern. We want nothing more than to have our students on our campuses and learning in classrooms with their teachers, however it is not safe to do so at this time. We ask that all of our students continue their online education as they have been doing over the last two weeks. Our teachers will continue to provide live streaming instruction online with students every period of every day from bell-to-bell. We will get through this together.

I appreciate your patience and understanding during these most difficult and unprecedented times.

Sincerely,



Nora Gutierrez
Superintendent