

# **Ajo Unified School District Press Release**

**Contact: Robert F. Dooley**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Phone: (520) 387-5618**

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## **Article Title:**

### **POTENTIAL OPENING OF AJO SCHOOLS ON AUGUST 9, 2021**

The style in which school will open for 21-22 school year on August 9, 2021, was briefly mentioned by superintendent Bob Dooley in his report at the recent 5/12/21, Regular Board Meeting of the Ajo Unified School District Governing Board. Dr. Dooley mentioned that all persons he is familiar with... staff, families, administration are interested in returning to normalcy with the opening of the new school year on 8/9/21. This is not a simple answer. According to the superintendent, he will consult with the Pima County Health Department, adhere to CDC guidelines, and then consult with the Ajo Unified School District Governing Board as to the opening plans. He plans to have this as an action item no later than at the currently scheduled July 14, 2021, Board meeting.

Dooley says that he wants to avoid a model that will cause a situation where families, students and staff must deal with an open, close, open, close situation. Opening and closing repeatedly does not help students' learning progress he emphasized. "Please know that we want our students back to school." He added, "we miss them." If school opens with a regular schedule, that will include extracurricular activities such as sports, student council, on campus parent conferences, and a loss of social distancing such as students are experiencing this spring." If we open with a regular program on 8/9/21," Dooley says, "It will be a teacher directed instructional program, not an online program. The online program will still exist for grades 6-12 who have make-up classes, or extra classes they want to take," Dooley clarified.

"If you plan to reenroll your child for the 21-22 school year under a 'return to normal' program, Dooley encourages parents to start enrolling in June 2021."