



SAHUARITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #30

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Office of the Superintendent

April 20, 2018

Dear Families:

Last night, state-wide organizers of the #RedforEd movement called for a walkout at Arizona schools, starting next Thursday, April 26, 2018.

Although, I acknowledge the very real issues regarding State investment in Arizona's public schools, I do not believe that a walkout is an appropriate strategy to remedy those issues. I drafted a detailed communication to all members of the SUSD staff, outlining my perspectives regarding these important issues, and the possibility of a walkout. It is posted on our website, www.susd30.us, if you would like to read it.

The purpose of this letter and corresponding information is to create and communicate as much clarity as possible in regards to issues affecting the operation of our schools. First, we desire to continue operating our schools and delivering educational services, but will only do so upon determination that it is safe, and that meaningful teaching and learning can be maintained. Second, we are relentlessly committed to providing families with timely and accurate communication about school programs, operations, and determinations, so that families are informed, and can make the appropriate adjustments in their routines, as might be necessary.

Finally, I ask for your patience and trust as we navigate through these events. We are committed to doing whatever is necessary to uphold the tremendous trust you place in us every day.

Sincerely,

Manuel O. Valenzuela, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Frequently Asked Questions

Regarding Potential Work Stoppage

1. How will I find out my child's school is closed?

Please rely on the official district communication avenues for information on a school closing. Sahuarita Unified School District (SUSD) will use our district notification system, our website, and district and school social media accounts to communicate information regarding a school closing. This determination will be made no later than **Monday, April 23, 2018**, and will be communicated via the district notification system, our website, and district and school social media accounts.

2. How will you determine if schools need to be closed?

All SUSD schools will be closed if we determine there is not adequate staff to maintain campus security and student safety. School closures will not be determined school by school, but rather district-wide. This will impact preschool through high school.

3. Will childcare be available?

If schools close for a day, all before and after school childcare (ie, L.I.N.K.) will be canceled.

5. If SUSD schools are closed, would the school year be extended?

Yes. According to state laws and current policies, any day that a school is closed would likely have to be made up.

6. Would school closures affect 8th grade promotions or high school graduation dates?

High school graduation ceremonies and 8th grade promotions would occur as scheduled. However, in the event the school year is extended due to a walkout, high school seniors may be required to come back after the ceremony to complete the school year.

7. If SUSD schools are closed, would athletic practices/games or fine arts rehearsals/productions be canceled?

Lower level high school and middle level athletics and fine arts events would be canceled. Varsity athletics and high school fine arts would continue as long as a coach or instructor is available.

8. Will JTED classes continue to be held if the district schools are closed?

JTED classes that are hosted at SUSD school campuses during the normal school day would not be held. Look for communication from Pima JTED for additional closures for programs hosted at other campuses and/or after school.

9. If SUSD schools are closed, would school trips take place as scheduled?

No. If schools are closed, school trips would be canceled.

10. If SUSD schools do not close but have limited staff, will bus transportation to and from school still be provided?

If schools are open, transportation will likely continue to be provided.

11. School is open with limited staff and I send my child, what can I expect will happen that day?

If a decision is made that schools are able to operate the day will proceed as close to normal as possible. The top priority will be the safety and security of each campus. There may be some modifications in academic instruction and support services. Lunch and breakfast services may be adjusted.

12. If SUSD schools are closed for more than one day, how often will I receive communication?

You can expect daily communication during a school closure.

13. My child's school is closed, do I have to call him/her out sick?

In the event the district schools are closed, you are not required to call a child out as sick and student absences would be marked as administrative excused.

14. My child's school is open, but there is limited staff so I want to keep my child home.

We will only open schools if we have adequate staff. It will count as a school day. As indicated above, however, instruction may be modified along with other support services.

15. What support will the district offer to our families?

If a walkout occurs, the only way to ensure the safety and well-being of our students is to close our schools. We are notifying families of the possibility of a walkout and we have asked parents to make a plan for alternate arrangements for their children if a walkout occurs. If there is a walkout and schools are closed, the district will not have staff to provide any services at the school site. The district could not evaluate outside resources, so would not be able to make any recommendations for childcare options, feeding options, or any services not directly provided by the district.