



August 28, 2020

Dear Scottsdale Unified Families,

As we close out the month of August, we want to say thank you for the strong support you have shown for your student and our teachers. We continue to work through all of the logistics toward our common goal of reuniting students with teachers in an on-campus setting. As with any large operation, we have thousands of logistical decisions and actions underway to ready our facilities to safely welcome back students. From measuring desk spacing to arrows on the floor and posters on the walls, from extra hand washing and sanitizing stations to ordering thousands of spray bottles, masks and supplies to equip our classrooms, our Logistics and Operations team is hard at work taking care of the details that will make the day on campus a safe experience for all. Our Social and Emotional subcommittee continues its important work to train our teaching staff to recognize needs in students, provide resources for families and students, and keep a close eye on everyone's well-being. This vital work helps us remain focused on why we come together daily at Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD): to educate our students. We have some important dates coming up, so please read on for the details of how and when decisions will be made to phase in on-campus learning.

Reopening Metrics Have Been Met

- *We have [officially met the benchmarks](#) for transitioning from red to yellow, which means that in two weeks, we can take the next steps to implement a phased-in hybrid option for in-person instruction.*

As you may recall, on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, the SUSD Governing Board voted to use the Arizona Department of Public Health (AzDHS) metrics as the framing for when we can begin to return to learn in person. By adopting the AzDHS metrics and committing to identifying hybrid options and/or a phased-in approach to returning to in-person instruction, our Governing Board signaled its commitment to using data to inform decisions to ensure the health, safety and well-being of our students and staff, as well as to recognizing that we need to proceed with in-person instruction as soon as the metrics allow us to move in that direction.

The Maricopa County Department of Public Health updated its [data dashboard](#) recently. The data is presented by county, city, school district and zip code level. We have chosen to use zip code data because that is the best data available to capture our currently enrolled students. The [fifteen zip codes](#) each contain at least 1% of our total population and, collectively, represent 92.5% of our total enrollment. For a look at how SUSD is using these metrics at the District level, please view our metrics webpage at www.susd.org/Metrics. This page is updated weekly, on Friday afternoons, with new information.

9/1/2020 Governing Board Meeting | Discussion of Phased-In, On-Campus Learning

On Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 5 p.m., the Governing Board will consider a recommendation to use a phased approach to reopening our schools. At least 24 hours before the meeting is set to begin, visit www.susd.org/Board, where you may [access the agenda](#), presentations and find a link to the [SUSD YouTube channel](#) on which the meeting will be broadcast live and later archived.

[Tune in](#) to the September 1, 2020 Governing Board meeting at 5 p.m. via YouTube to see the recommendation presented and hear the discussion as it unfolds, live.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Staff

Prior to staff returning to teach in school buildings, they will be provided safety training, and Personal

Protective Equipment (PPE) and supplies will be stocked in classrooms, as well as in the Nurses' offices of each campus. These PPE items include:

- Extra masks
- Face shields (must be used in conjunction with a mask)
- Hand sanitizer
- Wipes

Additionally, the District is upgrading its air filtration system to MERV 13 filters (previously we used MERV 8) in order to address concerns related to the airborne nature of the coronavirus.

Surveys Coming Soon

To ensure that we have the appropriate staffing, facilities and resources in place, we are asking parents and guardians to be on the lookout for a survey coming from your principal's office. Your timely response will help us be responsive with our planning efforts.

Special Education Survey

The District is conducting a survey of our parents with students in our Special Education program to determine if they will be sending their child(ren) back to in-person learning, which is set to begin on September 8, pending approval by the Governing Board at the September 1 meeting.

Thought Exchange

We have issued a new Thought Exchange today, August 28, to collect your ideas for specific aspects of reopening campuses. [Here is a link](http://bit.ly/TE828) to this current campaign: <http://bit.ly/TE828>. You may read more about Thought Exchange and access this latest campaign at www.susd.org/ThoughtExchange.

Preparing for On-Campus Learning

There are a few very important documents we will need all parents and guardians to complete before their student is permitted to return to campus:

- *SUSD Student Release and Acknowledgement Form*: Each family will need to sign into ParentVUE. The system will prompt you to complete the SUSD Student Release and Acknowledgement form. This form must be completed prior to a student's physical return to an SUSD school campus. Please note, this acknowledgement is NOT available yet but will be available by Monday, August 31.
- *Health History Form*: Completion and submission of a completed Health History Form (in [English](#) or [Spanish](#)) for each student in the household attending an SUSD school is required. Please submit a hard copy to your student's school office and/or school nurse.
- *Immunization Requirements*: Our school nurses will be reviewing the [immunization compliance of all students](#), so be sure that you consult the Arizona State Health Services schedule of immunizations available at <https://azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/immunization/school-childcare/school-immunization-requirements.pdf> to ensure that your student is in compliance with these State of Arizona public health requirements. Students out of compliance will not be permitted to physically return to campus.

Nutrition Services Update

A daily snack and supper are now included in SUSD Nutrition Services' curbside, weekly meal pickup service at most of the designated sites (*As a site, Redfield Elementary does not meet free-and-reduced meal qualifications, so the weekly meal service there does not include snacks or suppers.*)

Families with students who attend an SUSD school may pick up five days' worth of student meals every Wednesday from 7 – 9:30 a.m. at any of these sites: Oak Campus, Pima, Redfield, Tavan and Yavapai. Learn more at www.susd.org/meals. Student names and ID numbers are required.

Helpful Information Sites

We have a wide variety of information available at the District website. Be sure to check your school's webpage often for site-specific announcements.

- Find weekly updates to reopening metrics at www.susd.org/Metrics.
- Learn more about back to school at www.susd.org/BackToSchool.
- Miss one of our weekly briefings? We have them all archived at www.susd.org/COVID19.
- View a list of school websites and contact information at www.susd.org/Schools.
- Find a list of all SUSD Principals at www.susd.org/Principals.
- Print a copy of the 2020-2021 school year calendar at www.susd.org/Calendar.
- Follow your school and the District on social media: www.susd.org/Connect.
- Find the latest District updates at www.susd.org.

Thank you for your partnership as we work together toward our common goal of educating our students.

Scottsdale Unified School District