



Arizona
Education
Association

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Arizona Schools, Education Leaders, and Parents:

With their announcement today that students will finish the 2019-2020 school year at home, Governor Ducey and Superintendent Hoffman provided the clear signal educators needed to prepare for the last quarter of the school year. Our focus must remain firmly fixed upon the health, safety, and well-being of our students and our school employees.

To that end, the Arizona Education Association calls upon all district leaders to utilize the maximum flexibility provided for in HB2910, Public School Closures Related to the Coronavirus Disease Act.

To ensure that the safety and health of our students and school employees are not compromised we urge school districts to implement the following practices afforded by the School Closure Act.

Districts must provide alternative opportunities for employees with underlying health issues to contribute their skills and labor.

Any school employee required to leave their home and report to work must be provided safe working conditions, safety protocols that promote a safe work environment, and the personal protective equipment necessary for their work.

District administrators that require employees to report to school buildings must provide justification that the work is critical in nature and that it could not be accomplished at home.

Districts must include teachers and education support professionals in the planning and revising of the district-wide and school-wide plans they will adopt because they are relying on those same teachers and professionals to implement those plans. The professionals closest to the students must have a voice in these critical decisions.

Student test scores impact numerous high-stakes decisions at the end of the school year. With a lack of student data this year due to the cancellation of state testing, school employees must be held harmless by these data-driven decisions that impact their employment, their pay, and their work assignment.

Teachers and other school professionals providing direct support to students must be provided sufficient time to do all of the following: collaborate with their grade-level and content teams, review hard copy and internet-based materials for inclusion in developmentally-appropriate enrichment activities, and receive high-quality professional development on the asynchronous, distance learning models we rapidly shifted to. Districts shall reserve one day each week, free of other obligations, for these priorities so teachers and specialists are best prepared to meet the needs of their students.

AEA's MISSION

*AEA...
keeping the
promise of
quality
public
education*

Districts must keep our students and teachers safe and healthy by adopting the maximum flexibility afforded by the School Closure Act. This will provide teachers and all school employees peace of mind so they can focus on meeting the needs of our students as best we can in the final weeks of this school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Thomas", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joe Thomas
President
Arizona Education Association