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May 19, 2025

Arizona State Board of Education  
1700 W. Washington Street  
Executive Tower Suite #300  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Members of the Arizona State Board of Education:

On behalf of the Arizona Education Association (AEA) and in my personal capacity as a teacher in the Isaac School District, I am writing with concern about the 120 Day Receivership Update that was presented and discussed at the May 19, 2025, Public Meeting of the Arizona State Board of Education.

The Isaac School District is a special community. More than a quarter of our students live in poverty, and nearly all are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.<sup>1</sup> Despite profound systemic barriers, our students are relentless in pursuing their dreams. With the foundations they develop in Isaac's K-8 schools, many become the first in their families to graduate from high school or college—starting small businesses, achieving distinguished military service, or simply living as positive role models to those around them.

Isaac educators are deeply devoted to their students. At the peak of a financial crisis they did not cause, hundreds of Isaac educators agreed to work *without pay* so their students could continue to learn. Isaac could not have made it through the last year without these educators, all of whom have a unique first-hand perspective on our district's challenges.

Isaac students, families, and educators should have been the first consulted in the Receiver's evaluation. Instead, the report appears to include only the bare minimum input from those most affected by this crisis. Getting to the root of Isaac's financial challenges will require deep, one-on-one conversations with Isaac educators, many of whom have spent their entire careers in our district. While AEA is relieved that the number of expected school closures was reduced from three to two, we remain deeply concerned about our members and the families who will be most impacted by decisions made without their input. We urge the State Board of Education and the Isaac School District Receiver to commit to a series of community conversations to build a more complete picture of our schools and be more transparent about the next steps for our district and what these proposed changes will look like for our community.

Sincerely,

Marisol Garcia  
President, Arizona Education Association

CC: Keith Kenny, Director, J.S. Held, LLC as Receiver for Isaac School District No. 5

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/saipe/#/?s\\_state=04&s\\_district=0403960&s\\_geography=district&s\\_measures=5\\_17\\_fam](https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/saipe/#/?s_state=04&s_district=0403960&s_geography=district&s_measures=5_17_fam)  
<https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2025/03/Free%20and%20Reduced-Price%20Percentage%20Report%20SY%202024-2025%20-%20Data.pdf>