July 22, 2020

Dear Tucson Unified Community,

On Tuesday July 14th our team presented our recommendation for an instructional model that we feel will provide the best level of education possible given the difficulty of this pandemic and the restrictions on traditional classroom teaching due to COVID 19 pre-cautionary measures like physical distancing, masks/face coverings, and intrusive sanitation and cleanliness protocols. Our decision making was guided by the principles of keeping students and employees safe and healthy, ensuring access and equity for all students, maintaining continuity of instruction, providing the highest possible quality of instruction to our students, and ensuring the flexibility necessary to change and adapt to an ever-changing situation. Please know that you have my assurance, that this plan is only temporary. It is my goal and intention to move all of our students back to on campus traditional instruction as soon as circumstances warrant. As communication is vital, I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the most important aspects of our plan for our parents, students, and our employees.

Our Plan: One Instructional Model for All
✓ All instruction will be facilitated virtually by TUSD certificated teachers.
✓ Monitors and other support staff employees will not be teaching students and will only be assisting with supervision.
✓ Parents can choose virtual learning from home (remote) or virtual learning on campus (in-school) thru their ParentVue account by answering the 3 Learning Questions when they edit their child’s information page.
✓ Schools will be open for on-campus learning for students 5 days a week during the same bell schedules as last year.
✓ All students attending in-school learning or remote learning have the option for TUSD to provide the devices and software necessary to participate at no cost to our parents.
✓ Students attending in-school learning will continue to have the normal routines of the school day such as recess time, lunch, and frequent breaks.
✓ Please note that students will not be expected to sit in front of computers with no breaks.
✓ All students will have virtual online access to special classes such as music, art, PE, CTE and other electives
✓ All in-school learning spaces will average between 10-15 students in each space depending on the size of the room.
✓ Masks/ Face coverings will be required for all students and staff and the physical distancing of students will be implemented in each in-school learning space.
✓ Meetings requested with teachers and school personnel will be facilitated virtually.

Exceptional Education, Pre-K Programming and English Language Learners
✓ Due to the comprehensive needs of students in self-contained programs, we will offer instruction on campus using the traditional classroom model as soon as schools re-open. However, families may choose the remote option through the registration process. If a family chooses the remote option, a special education teacher will contact the parent/guardian to discuss what services will look like for their child during the period of online instruction.
✓ Parents of students who receive exceptional education services in the general education classroom can select remote learning as an option through the registration process. IEP teams will convene virtually before the annual IEP due date to update services based on the student’s current needs. Parents of Exceptional Education students can select remote learning through the IEP process.
✓ For students in the English Language Development program, they will be prioritized for an in-school learning space placement, as soon as the physical re-opening of campuses is permitted.
✓ All pre-school programs will be open and on campus with traditional instruction as soon as the physical re-opening of campuses is permitted.

In my continuing efforts to address your concerns, provide you vital information, and answer your questions personally, I will be facilitating a series two town halls on Thursday July 23rd for English speaking families and on Monday July 27th for Spanish speaking families. Please look for details on our district website or on any of our social media platforms. Lastly, for comprehensive details on all aspects of our district re-opening plan, please be sure to visit tusd1.org/NextSteps2020. We look forward to the day when we can welcome all of our students back to our schools, when our teachers can thrive in their classrooms once again, and when our students once again brighten our district’s stages, auditoriums, fields, gymnasiums, and classrooms with their passion, energy, artistry, and brilliance. Until then, I thank you for your patience, your understanding and your support. Please stay safe and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gabriel Trujillo, Superintendent
Tucson Unified School District