

# Tuba City Unified School District

Risha VanderWey  
Superintendent

“A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE”

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3-31-2020

Dear Tuba City Unified School District Staff and Community Members,

All TCUSD schools are to remain closed until next year. The announcement is intended to provide parents and educators as much certainty as possible so that they can plan and make decisions. At this time, TCUSD is offering virtual learning opportunities ([www.tcusd.org](http://www.tcusd.org)) and take-home learning opportunities for our students. Please notify your school if you are not receiving assignments and we will find a way to ensure you receive these standards-based learning opportunities. These efforts are crucial, and I recognize that TCUSD is making every effort possible to continue providing quality learning opportunities during school closures.

Faculty is to be working from home. Providing much needed virtual lessons and/or Beyond Textbook learning lessons. We currently remain serving our Grab-n-Go breakfast/lunch combo. Our nutrition staff and transportation staff have been working tirelessly to make and deliver food. At this time, we are still utilizing volunteers to help us distribute the meals. We cannot do this alone. Thank you all whom have helped us at this difficult time.

All assessments have been waived for this school year. All sporting events, clubs and graduations have been canceled. Once the leadership team has developed a plan for graduation ceremonies we will inform you.

Districts across the state are awaiting guidance from the Arizona Department of Education that shifts learning expectations from “supplemental” during the statewide school closures to providing continuous learning in grades PreK-12. While ongoing, remote learning cannot fully replace students’ experiences in schools with their teachers, administrators, and support staff, this approach will help ensure our students are prepared for the next step in their educational journey. Below is a summary of key information and what families and students can expect. Additional information can be found in the [www.tcusd.org](http://www.tcusd.org).

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What will “ongoing, remote instruction” look like? What can parents and students expect?**

All continuous learning and instruction will be aligned to Arizona State academic standards and focus on building students’ skills and understanding of key concepts. The district Beyond Textbook Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction has identified power standards that teachers have been asked to focus on throughout the school closures. Power standards refer to a subset of learning standards that are the highest priority or most important for students to learn. Remote learning will take place in several ways. While instruction or lessons online will likely be an option for many students and families, teachers will also suggest activities that do not require technology and consider home language, specialized services, developmental readiness, and resource access.

### **When does required ongoing learning begin at TCUSD?**

**Ronald Begay**  
President

**Saraphina Adson**  
Board Clerk

**Marie B. Acothley**  
Member

**Harriett Sloan**  
Member

**Lee Tsinigine**  
Member

Remote learning in Tuba City Unified School District began last week and will continue until the end of the school year. Many teachers have already been providing continuous learning opportunities for students. If you haven't heard from your school or your child's teacher or teachers, please contact the school administration.

**Will there be a uniform learning schedule across the district?**

No, there won't be a common district learning schedule. Each school has been asked to design an approach that is developmentally appropriate for the grade levels served, responsive to school culture, and realistic about available resources.

**Will my child be provided with 6 hours of instructional support per day?**

Parents should not expect remote learning hours to mirror traditional instruction. At the elementary level, 2-3 hours maximum per day is ideal. Middle and high school student hours may vary depending on the subject and lesson(s).

**What does ongoing, remote learning look like for full time working parents?**

We truly understand how challenging it is right now for parents who are expected to work from home to also support their child's learning. We want to provide adequate support, guidance, and structure, while still providing enough flexibility to accommodate the realities of the situation many of us are navigating. In many cases, learning doesn't need to occur during "work hours" but could also occur over the weekend or in the evening. If you need support, please reach out to your school administrator for guidance on prioritizing and scheduling learning throughout the day. If your child has an IEP or 504 plan, reach out directly to your child's IEP case manager or 504 coordinator, Mrs. Roe, who can support you with additional accommodations or modifications (928-890-7406).

**What specific supports are being provided to the class of 2020?**

It is our goal to communicate directly with the class of 2020 and their families. I may ask high school personnel and/or High school counselors to conduct senior "check-ins" as the first step in developing individualized graduation plans. Additional information about senior supports will be added as they are developed in the next several weeks.

**What supports will be provided for students receiving special education services?**

Students receiving specialized services and with an IEP are general education students first. Tuba City Unified School District will provide individual services to students based on their IEP goals and required services. We are prioritizing resources based on the feedback we have received from families and will initially share supports for: social emotional learning, study skills and organization tools, speech language therapy support, and occupational/physical therapy supports. In addition, staff are preparing to engage in IEP conversations with all families beginning this week. We will be calling all students/families who require these services.

**What accommodations is TCUSD providing if our family doesn't have a home computer and or internet access?**

Educators and schools have been asked to consider technology access when planning ongoing learning. Remote learning is not synonymous with online learning. Please share your needs with your child's teacher and/or administrator, including the need for paper-based supports and/or mailed to your P.O. box. In addition, each school will provide families with weekly or bi-monthly, paper-based packet of learning activities these can also be received at the 6 student meal distribution sites. These packets include standard aligned content and complement the grade-level standards expectations.

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**What is the plan for distribution of technology supports? How will supports be communicated?**

Tuba City Unified School District is working to identify laptops and/or other technology devices to support student learning. We are also working with the business community and philanthropy to identify additional supports.

Please continue to take care of yourself and your family. We know these are challenging times and we are here to support you. We are in this together.

I am committed to keeping you informed. Communication will be provided several times each week. You can also check the [www.tcusd.org](http://www.tcusd.org) for the most current family communications, resources, and FAQ.

Please share this information with your networks, neighbors, and friends.

Be safe, be kind, and be healthy.

Risha,

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